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May 2, 1983

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ALBERTA CATTLE TO GO BY SEA TO KOREA

Two thousand Charolais heifers will take a history-making sea voyage to the Republic of Korea beginning the first week in May.

These are the first Alberta beef cattle to go by ship to Korea. They make up a portion of over 23,000 head of Alberta cattle which have been sold to Korea over the past 18 months. All previous shipments of cattle have gone by chartered aircraft.

The Alberta cattle will be assembled in Ponoka and loaded into semi-trailer trucks. From there they will travel to Vancouver where a special cattle ship will be waiting into which the animals will be loaded directly. Estimated date of departure from Vancouver is Friday May 6 to arrive in Pusan, Korea about two weeks later.

The shipment is worth over $1,000,000. It is the latest sale made by the Alberta-Canada All-Breeds Association. Over the past several years the market development group of Alberta Agriculture has been working with private exporters in Alberta to develop the market in Korea.

Alberta's minister of agriculture, LeRoy Fjordbotten, will be at the Fraser-Surrey dock in Vancouver May 5 to see the cattle loaded unto the ship directly from the semi-trailers. "I see the whole operation as a good example of co-operation between the agriculture department and private industry," the minister points out.

The cattle will be accompanied by a government of Canada health inspector, several animal attendants and about 225 tonnes of feed.

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BUDGET BENEFITS FARM TAX LOSSES

The new federal budget will give farmers who are in financial difficulty some reprieve if they have paid taxes in any of the last three years, says Dan Hilsenteger, a farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture.

The new budget announced April 19, 1983 by Marc Lalonde proposes to spend more money on large capital projects, employment, housing, and to provide tax incentives to small businesses. There are also some changes to personal taxes, such as increases in child tax credit and child care expenses. Mr. Hilsenteger says there are several changes in the budget which will affect farmers.

- Special Farm Financial Assistance

A further injection of $100 million to bring to $150 million the money allocated for the Farm Credit Corporation's program for farmers will assist those in financial distress.

- Investment Tax Credit (ITC)

For investment after April 19, 1983. The maximum ITC claim for one year will no longer be limited to $15,000. The ITC may be carried back for two years in 1983 and three years in 1984. As well, the ITC may be carried forward for seven years, starting in 1983 rather than the previous five-year limit. This will allow a farmer who has to reduce his 1983 federal tax payable to zero to carry-back eligible ITC against federal tax payable in 1982 or 1981. The result would be a tax refund for 1983.

Should a farmer still have ITC available after the carry-back, he could then make use of the new Refundable Investment Tax Credit. This scheme will allow a farmer who is unable to make use of ITC acquired between April 19, 1983 and May 1, 1986, to claim 40

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Budget Benefits Farm Tax Losses (cont'd)

per cent of the remaining balance. Therefore a farmer who has a balance of $2,500 in his ITC pool after reducing his federal tax payable to zero would be able to claim a tax refund of $1,000 (40% of $2,500).

- Business Losses

Farmers will be allowed to carry-back losses in 1983 three years to 1980, and to carry forward losses for 10 years. This replaces the old rule of one-year carry-back and five-year carry-forward.

- Tax Incentives For Paying Salary To Spouse And Children

Employment expense deduction is to be increased to 20 per cent from three per cent of net income to a maximum of $500.

- Export Assistance

Farmers wishing to establish or improve export markets for their products may be eligible for assistance through a $20-million Export Market Development program, designed for small and medium sized buisness.

- Family Farm Rollover

Shares in a family farm holding company transferred after May 25, 1978 will qualify for the rollover.

In summarizing, Mr. Hilsenteger says that in order to benefit from this budget, a farmer will have to show a loss or low income in 1983 and/or purchase considerable new depreciable property after April 19, 1983. This is not to suggest, Mr. Hilsenteger cautions, that farmers should rush out and buy unneeded equipment or that they juggle their income tax return to show a loss in 1983. Rather, he says, farmers in financial difficulty will get some reprieve if they paid taxes in any of the last three years. Also those farmers who can afford to buy needed equipment will receive some tax incentives.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HORN FLY CONTROL

Every dollar spent on horn fly control can result in a return of $7 to $15 in livestock weight gain.

This is the preliminary finding of research being done by Hugh Philip, livestock entomologist with the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville.

Ear tags treated with insecticide will provide good control of horn flies on cattle over the summer, he says. The key is to attach the tags before the cattle are turned out to pasture.

Horn flies overwinter in pastures, emerging in late May or early June to feed on the blood of the cattle. A horn fly infestation is unmistakable. "You'll notice flies about half the size of houseflies on the backs of the cattle, especially bulls," Mr. Philip says.

Ear tags to control horn flies are sold under the brand names Bovaid and Debantic. They are equally effective if applied according to the instructions on the label. The cost of the tags ranges between $2.50 and $3.00 per animal. Calves do not have to be treated because horn flies do not attack them. Some producers may be reluctant to tag their bulls; it is not strictly necessary, according to Mr. Philip, as long as the rest of the herd is treated.

Mr. Philip urges producers to follow the directions that come with the ear tags, and wear gloves when handling them. The tags are not suitable for use as identification tags, and must be removed before the cattle are shipped for slaughter. Unused tags may be stored in a plastic bag in a cool place for use next year.

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Horn Fly Control (cont'd)

The horn fly problem is widespread in Alberta. "You find them everywhere you find cattle, except for rangelands at higher elevations, and areas that have recently been cleared for grazing — for example, north-central Alberta," Mr. Philip says. He is experimenting with ear tag tapes, tail tags and oilers as alternative methods of controlling horn flies.

More field studies are needed to develop information on the economic implications of horn flies in cattle production. Mr. Philip asks any producers interested in co-operating in such projects to contact their district agriculturist or regional livestock supervisor.

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CORRECTION

An error appeared in the title of the article about a new canola oil refinery at Wainwright (April 25, 1983 issue of Agri-News). The title on the article should have read "$9.1-Million Canola Oil Refinery Announced for Wainwright" NOT $1.9-Million. The figures within the story were correct.

May 2, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ZOYSIA GRASS NOT SUITABLE FOR ALBERTA

Despite its advertising claims, a turf grass called Zoysia or Manila grass is not suitable for use in Alberta.

Brendan Casement, research horticulturist with the Alberta Horticulture Research Center in Brooks, says that Zoysia grass is being promoted as a minimum maintenance, drought resistant lawn grass.

Mr. Casement explains that in order to thrive, Zoysia grass needs very hot temperatures, like those of the southern United States. Even Alberta's hottest summers are too cool for the grass to grow well. Furthermore, Zoysia grass stops growing when the average daily temperature drops to 10 ^{o} C, and turns straw-colored at the first frost. Claims that Zoysia grass will withstand temperatures of -35 ^{o} C have not been proven in Alberta, Mr. Casement adds.

A list of recommended turf grasses for Alberta may be found in the revised edition of the Alberta Horticultural Guide (Agdex 200/01), available from district offices or the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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TAXATION OF FARM MACHINERY REBATES

The federal government has made some changes to its new half-year depreciation rules in regard to the claiming of capital cost allowance (CCA), Merle Good, an agricultural economist with Alberta Agriculture, reports.

The capital cost of an asset (usually the purchase price) is reduced if certain amounts are received, such as government grants or investment tax credits. In the past the accepted method has been to reduce the capital cost of an asset by the amount of any rebate received and claim the capital cost allowance on this reduced amount. If, however, a rebate on the purchase price is received from a third party, usually the manufacturer, the Department of National Revenue, as a result of two court decisions, has accepted the claiming of capital cost allowance based on the full capital cost of an asset.

If the rebate is received from a dealer, then the normal method of reducing the capital cost of an asset by the amount of the rebate received will continue. Before purchasing an asset, request that a manufacturer rebate be paid directly to you rather than being handled through your dealer, advises Mr. Good. "The rebate should definitely be from a third party and for tax purposes is then treated as a non-taxable capital receipt or, in effect, a gift."

Investment Tax Credit

This change in the department's practice also affects the investment tax credit claim. The practice has been to calculate the credit based on the capital cost net of any rebate. For example, a new piece of farm machinery purchased for $40,000 with a manufacturer's rebate of $10,000 would, assuming a seven per cent rate, generate an investment tax credit of $2,100 ($30,000 x 7%).

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Taxation of Farm Machinery Rebates (cont'd)

The change in the department's policy means the credit is calculated on the capital cost, ignoring any rebate. The claim therefore, using the same figures, would generate an investment tax credit of $2,800 ($40,000 x 7%). The capital cost of such qualifying assets must still be reduced by the amount of any investment tax credits claimed before entering the balance into your CCA class.

In the past year it has not been unusual to see farm equipment manufacturers offering rebates of 20 and even 30 per cent of the purchase price for certain pieces of equipment. The savings resulting from higher capital cost allowance claims and investment tax credit allowances can be quite impressive, Mr. Good notes. Using the same example, the manufacturer's rebate of $10,000 will generate a tax saving of $4,700 (assuming a farmer is in the 40 per cent tax bracket). This reduction is composed of a $700 investment tax credit ($10,000 x 7%) and $4,000 over three years in federal and provincial tax due to increased depreciation allowances. ($10,000 x 40%).

Amending Your Return

In most situations, the tax department will not permit taxpayers to amend previous years' returns to reduce their tax payable if their claim is based on a successful challenge by a taxpayer of the department's assessment policy. However, taxpayers can adjust the capital cost of assets on which third party rebates have been received and begin claiming capital tax allowance on the higher adjusted amount. Furthermore, since the capital cost of the assets has been adjusted, it appears that an additional investment tax credit can also be claimed. The claiming of this additional credit however is still subject to the five-year limitation rule, which states that unused tax credits can be carried forward for up to five years and applied against federal tax payable.

Taxation of Farm Machinery Rebates (cont'd)

Conclusion

With the complexity of the Income Tax Act, changes in the department's policy will become the norm rather than the exception predicts Mr. Good. "It is this reason that expert advice from a qualified accountant should be sought before filing your last year's tax return," he says.

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APPLY NOW FOR SUMMER FARM EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The Alberta Summer Farm Employment Program will operate again this year. If you plan to hire a student, or if you hope to get a job under the program, however, don't delay – apply to the nearest Canada farm labor pool office as soon as possible.

The deadline for applications is June 3, but with the general shortage of summer jobs, Bernie Yakimyshyn, co-ordinator of special employment programs for Alberta Agriculture, expects the limit of 800 applications to be reached early.

Under the program any Alberta farmer can hire a student, provided the two are not related. The Alberta government will pay half the student's monthly salary up to a maximum of $300.

To be elegible, students must be at least 15 years old, and have the written consent of their parents if they are under 18. They must be residents of Alberta and legally entitled to work in Canada. In addition, each student must be prepared to work for at least one month and to attend one of Alberta Agriculture's farm safety seminars.

Applications from potential employers under the Alberta Summer Farm Employment Program will be taken on a first come, first served basis, with priority given to those who did not participate in 1982.

The aim of the program is to provide work experience for students. More than 26,000 young people have taken part since the program was started 11 years ago.

Employer and employee application forms can be obtained from district agriculturists or Canada farm labor pool offices. Further details on the Alberta Summer Farm Employment Program are available from Bernie Yakimyshyn, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, telephone 427-2186.

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ECONOMICS OF NH_3 APPLICATION

Alberta Agriculture has just released the publication "Economics Of Alternative Methods Of Anhydrous Ammonia Application."

The publication identifies four methods of anhydrous application and evaluates these methods by comparing their investment and operating costs. The four methods that are considered in the publication are purchase of a cold flow converter kit and rental of tank(s); purchase of a cold flow converter kit with two different sized tanks, rental of an NH_3 applicator from a dealer; and purchase of a NH_3 applicator with two different sized tanks.

Gerd Andres, farm management economist of Olds, Alberta, says that an estimated cost breakdown for each of the options is analyzed according to acreage size. Both fixed and variable costs are examined. Cost estimates for 1,000, 1,500 and 2,000 acres are given.

Cost breakdowns for each of the four methods are illustrated in table form. Also included in the publication is a worksheet to help farmers calculate their own anhydrous machinery costs.

Mr. Andres says that NH_3, rental equipment and delivery rates for NH_3 can vary among dealers as does the purchase of NH_3 equipment. He advises each individual to estimate his own costs from figures that dealers can provide. The publication also discusses shared ownership and tax considerations.

Copies of "Economics Of Alternative Methods Of Anhydrous Ammonia Application" (Agdex 825-14) can be obtained from district agriculturist: Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or from the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0.

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NEW EDITION OF ALBERTA HORTICULTURAL GUIDE RELEASED

Every year many home gardeners spend time and money on plants that don't grow well simply because the variety is not suited to Alberta.

The Alberta Horticultural Guide, recently revised for 1983-85, can help gardeners avoid that problem. This handy pocket-sized booklet lists the recommended varieties of vegetables, flowers, shrubs and trees for different climatic zones of Alberta.

The recommendations in the guide are based on the findings of researchers with Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Canada and agricultural colleges, as well as commercial growers.

"Through the guide we offer home gardeners the very latest information on cultivars and cultural practices," says Tom Krahn of the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks. The new sections in this edition are vegetable varieties recommended for home greenhouses, and information on tunnels and hotcaps.

The Alberta Horticultural Guide (Agdex 200/01) is free. Copies are available from district agriculturists or the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6.

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FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL PROGRAM AIDS NORTHERN ALBERTA FOOD PROCESSORS

Five rural Alberta firms will receive financial assistance totalling $325,446 under the Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance.

Caravelle Foods, located in Spruce Grove, will upgrade its meat processing facility with the help of a $191,829 offer. The firm will use the assistance to expand its burger patty line, add a new pork sandwich product line and also expand its office, storage and maintenance areas. Eleven jobs are expected to be created.

A soft drink bottler in St. Paul has accepted an offer of $72,760 to expand its facility. St. Paul Beverages Limited will upgrade its production lines, maintenance and warehouse facilities. When the expansion is complete, the firm hopes to hire an additional 11 persons.

The Shur Gain Division of Canada Packers Inc. will modernize its feedmill located in Wetaskiwin. The company has accepted an offer of $43,239 to modify its operations to include steam rolled feed for dairy cattle.

Another feedmill will modernize and expand its existing facility located in Westlock. Champion Feed Services Ltd. has accepted an offer of $15,158 to install new equipment and storage bins.

Stony Plain Bakery Ltd. will purchase a new mixer and water meter using a $2,460 offer. Located in Stony Plain, the bakery uses only natural ingredients, with no additives or preservatives added to the products.

The Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance is a cost-shared program administered jointly by Alberta Agriculture and the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE).

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For further information, contact Dr. J. E. Wiebe, Executive Director, Rural Development, Alberta Agriculture, telephone: 427-4287.

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SPRUCE BUDWORM FORECAST FOR 1983

Three areas in Alberta are expected to be affected by the spruce budworm in 1983. According to a survey done by the Canadian Forestry Service of Environment Canada, moderate-to-severe defoliation of spruce trees could occur in 1983.

The three affected areas are in Edmonton, near Castor and in Big Knife Provincial Park. An aerial survey conducted in Edmonton late June of 1982 revealed moderate-to-severe defoliation of spruce along the North Saskatchewan River from the Quesnell Bridge to the university area. Similar defoliation levels are expected in 1983.

In the Castor area, spruce branch samples were collected and egg masses were analysed. Results from the test indicate that severe defoliation of spruce could occur in 1983. Approximately 200 hectares of spruce in the area were affected in 1982.

A survey in Big Knife Provincial Park, located northeast of Stettler, also revealed the presence of the spruce budworm. Most of the 7.5 hectares of spruce located in the park are expected to be affected by moderate- to-severe defoliation in 1983.

The report prepared by the Canadian Forestry Service does note that unfavorable weather conditions, as well as parasites and diseases, could decrease spruce budworm populations.

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MICRONUTRIENT FERTILIZERS GENERALLY NOT REQUIRED IN ALBERTA

Farmers are advised not to apply micronutrient fertilizers, even if laboratory tests show that the soil is deficient in micronutrients.

"The tests themselves do not appear to be doing an adequate job of predicting when micronutrient fertilizers are required," says Ross McKenzie, soil fertility specialist with Alberta Agriculture in Lethbridge.

Plants require six micronutrients -- boron, chlorine, copper, iron, manganese and zinc -- most of which are naturally present in adequate amounts in Alberta soils. There are two ways of determining micronutrient levels: taking tissue samples from a growing crop, or testing the soil itself.

It is the soil tests Mr. McKenzie questions. In 1982 the soils branch studied samples from 85 fields in southern Alberta. Approximately one-third tested low in at least one micronutrient. Yet tests on crop tissues taken from the same fields later in the summer showed no micronutrient deficiencies whatsoever.

Both private laboratories and Alberta Agriculture will test soil for farmers. "The results are the same regardless of who does the testing," Mr. McKenzie notes.

Not only are soil tests likely misleading -- but so far there is no evidence that dryland crops respond to applications of micronutrient fertilizers. Irrigated field beans are the only Alberta-grown crop that has proven to benefit from the fertilizer.

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Micronutrient Fertilizers Generally Not Required in Alberta (cont'd)

Unnecessary use of micronutrient fertilizers is costly. "Last week I talked with a farmer planning to seed 7,000 acres. Soil tests showed his land needed micronutrient fertilizers that would have cost $12 per acre or $84,000. Likely there would be little or no yield increase," Mr. McKenzie says. "If farmers are considering the use of a micronutrient fertilizer, I'd advise them to try a test strip instead of an application to the whole field."

Further research on the need for micronutrient fertilizers will be carried out in southern Alberta this summer. In the meantime, more information on the subject is found in Alberta Agriculture's new fact sheet, Micronutrient Requirements of Crops in Alberta (Agdex 531-1). Copies are available from district offices or from the Print Media Branch, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6.

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MARKET GARDEN GRANT AVAILABLE

Market gardeners may be eligible for assistance under Alberta's Market Garden Development Garden Grant Program. Funding up to $750 per hectare or 10,000 square metres (2.47 acres or 107,640 square feet) of vegetables and/or fruit is available.

The Market Garden Development Grant Program was initiated in 1976 to increase market gardening in the province by providing assistance to growers in the form of grants to be used for buying seed, fertilizers, gardening equipment, etc.

To be eligible for a grant, a market gardener must produce and market all his produce from a minimum of one hectare. The grant covers all vegetable crops, except potatoes, that are commonly grown in Alberta and raspberry and strawberry plants that are bearing fruit. The vegetables and fruits must be grown under normally acceptable cultural practices and must be sold through a recognized marketing channel.

Since a market gardener is entitled to a grant for a maximum of only two years, anybody who has already received a grant for two years under the Market Garden Development Grant Program or the former Fresh Vegetable Incentive Program is not eligible for a grant this year. Vegetable growers who are eligible for grants must file an application by July 1 with the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

Additional information on the Market Garden Development Grant Program and application forms for the grants can be obtained from district agriculturists, the Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO or the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, R.R. 6, Edmonton, Alberta, T5B 4K3.

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MARKET DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS INCREASE SALES

Long-term efforts to develop markets for Alberta's agricultural goods are beginning to pay off, says Cliff Wulff, executive director of Alberta Agriculture's market development division.

During 1982 the division assisted Alberta companies in making export sales of approximately $300 million. During each of the first three months of 1983, the division helped to initiate export sales worth $5 million in new business alone.

New markets for hides and malting barley worth $5 million have been developed in China. What initiated these trade discussions was the signing last year of a "twinning" agreement between Alberta and China's Helongjiang province, a relationship established to further cultural and economic ties.

Over the past 18 months Korea has bought 23,000 head of cattle from Alberta. These sales, too, have been assisted by a twinning agreement, Mr. Wulff says -- one signed in 1973 between Alberta and the Korean province Kangweon (Gangweon).

The market development division has helped to get Alberta beef into Britain. Since August 1982, over 40 containers of beef, 12 of them fresh cryovacked high quality cuts, have been shipped. Harrods, the noted English department store, is featuring Alberta beef this month.

Mr. Wulff says the Pacific northwest United States has the greatest potential outside Alberta and B.C. as a market for Alberta products. Canada Safeway's export division has recently sold grocery products and fresh and processed meats in Hawaii, Seattle, Spokane and Denver. "The Montreal beef market remains Alberta's major out-of-province market for our cattlemen and processors," he adds.

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Market Development Efforts Increase Sales (cont'd)

Mr. Wulff considers canola products second only to livestock and meats in export potential. The market development division has undertaken feeding trials using canola meal in rations for trout, dairy cattle and poultry. As a result, canola meal is accepted as an ingredient in feed rations in the Pacific northwest.

Feeding trials are only one tool market development staff use to encourage international buyers to accept Alberta products. "We also host trade missions, conduct seminars, take part in trade shows, and work toward changing regulations and attitudes," Mr. Wulff says.

As for the future, with world trade declining in volume and value, "It's going to be a challenge just to maintain our present trade level in some markets," he says. In this regard the market development division is examining new marketing techniques -- for example, barter (three-country trade) -- to see whether they offer opportunities for Alberta exporters. The division is also urging the federal government and commercial banks to examine the increased use of credit for the expansion of agricultural and food exports.

Overall, the market development division is aiming at assisting Alberta industry to improve its sales results in 1983.

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REGISTERED HOME OWNERSHIP SAVINGS PLAN BETTER THAN EVER

Marc Lalonde's new budget proposes to further assist home and home furnishing buyers through modifications to the Registered Home Ownership Savings Plan (RHOSP), says Dan Hilsenteger, a farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture.

HOME PURCHASES

For 1983 and 1984 taxation years, an individual who has a RHOSP may, upon the purchase of a newly constructed home, claim as a deduction against taxable income, the difference between $10,000 and his RHOSP contributions. For example, if an individual who contributed $4,000 to his RHOSP in previous years buys a home after April 19, 1983, he would withdraw the $4,000 from the plan and also claim the additional RHOSP deduction of $6,000 ($10,000 - $4,000). This new RHOSP incentive would provide an individual in a 30 per cent tax bracket with a tax savings of $1,800, (30% of $6,000). An individual who has made no contributions in the past and is otherwise eligible in the current year for a RHOSP can obtain the maximum deduction of $10,000.

In order to qualify for this "top up" feature, the following conditions must be met:

- You must move in immediately and remain for that year and 60 days after the end of the year.
- No deduction is claimed by another person on the same home.
- No grant is paid under the Canadian Home Ownership Stimulation Plan on the same home.
- Neither you nor your spouse previously owned a home after 1981.

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Registered Home Ownership Savings Plan Better Than Ever (cont'd)

HOME FURNISHINGS

Individuals will be permitted to withdraw all or part of their accumulated savings in RHOSPs free of tax for the purchase of new home furnishings and appliances in 1983, even though they do not purchase a new home. They will not be required to close the plan for such withdrawals, and withdrawals will not affect their eligibility to make future tax-deductible contributions to the plan. However, they will not be allowed to claim any RHOSP deduction for 1983 in respect of contributions to the plan after April 19, 1983 if they choose to make use of this option.

Qualifying new furnishings must generally be purchased between April 19 and December 31, 1983. However, goods purchased on or before April 19, 1983 but delivered after this date will also be eligible. Goods purchased before December 31, 1983 must be delivered by February 29, 1984 in order to be eligible. This measure will stimulate consumer expenditures on durable goods.

Qualifying furnishings and appliances will include the following when purchased new:

- furniture for use in the home,
- the following appliances for use in the home:
  refrigerators and freezers
  clothes washers and dryers
  dishwashers
  stoves and ovens
  vacuum cleaners, floor polishers, rug shampooers,
- curtains, drapes, blinds and interior window shutters, and
- rugs and carpets, including underpadding.

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Registered Home Ownership Savings Plan Better Than Ever (cont'd)

Qualifying purchases will not include musical instruments, home entertainment equipment such as games tables, video games, computers, television and stereos, clocks, outdoor furniture, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, air cleaners and conditioners, listed personal property, appliances for outdoor use and appliances costing less than $100 each.

Taxpayers will be required to include sales receipts to qualifying purchases with their 1983 tax returns. Any RHOSP withdrawals in excess of qualifying purchases will be included for tax purposes in that year.

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WHEAT PRICE OUTLOOK

World wheat prices are expected to remain generally weak during the 1983-84 crop year. Although they have recently shown minor strength, mainly due to the American wheat acreage reduction program, they are expected to decline by about $10 per tonne between now and July. After that they are expected to slowly improve into the winter of 1984.

According to Alberta Agriculture's grain marketing economist, Les Lyster, 1982-83 Canadian wheat exports, including products, are expected to reach 20.7 million tonnes, despite the extremely stiff competition that has been experienced in the export market. This volume would be 2.2 million tonnes above the record 1981-82 level. However, carryover stocks at the end of the present crop year are expected to be approximately 11.2 million tonnes or 1.5 million tonnes higher than they were in July 1982.

Mr. Lyster says that the March planting intentions survey indicates that Canadian farmers intend to plant 33.24 million acres to wheat this spring, which would be 6.8 per cent above the record 1982 acreage. Although the survey was taken prior to the time that the Canadian Wheat Board announced its initial payments, Mr. Lyster believes the estimate is reasonable.

Even though the 1983 acreage is expected to be up, yields are not likely to match the phenomenal 1982 level. Mr. Lyster points out that the estimated 1983 acreage, combined with the trend yield of 29.7 bushels per acre, would result in a wheat crop of 26.9 million tonnes or 2.5 per cent smaller than the record 1982 crop. Hence, Canada's 1983-84 wheat supplies are expected to be about 38.1 million tonnes or 0.8 million tonnes above the 1982-83 supplies.

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Wheat Price Outlook (cont'd)

World wheat carryover stocks for 1982-83 are estimated to be 97 million tonnes, up substantially from the 1981-82 carryover of 83 million. Although world wheat production in the 1983-84 crop year is expected to decline from that of the previous crop year, 1983-84 supplies are again expected to be large. And world wheat trade and usage are expected to remain fairly flat during that period.

The above article is based on information that was available in April, 1983.

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May 16, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEED GRAIN PRICE OUTLOOK

The Canadian barley market is expected to improve in the coming crop year.

Les Lyster, grain marketing economist with Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch says the long-term situation for Canadian barley is somewhat brighter because both Canadian and U.S. feed grain stocks are expected to be drawn down during the 1983-84 crop year. However, in spite of the massive U.S. acreage reduction programs, which will reduce both American and world feed grain production in 1983-84, feed grain supplies will be adequate to meet the foreseeable demand unless a weather disaster occurs in one or more of the major feed grain producing countries, particularly the United States.

In Canada the supply/demand balance for Canadian barley is expected to tighten during 1983-84. According to Statistics Canada's Planting Intentions Report, farmers in this country intend to reduce their barley acreage to 11.98 million acres, which would be 9.4 per cent smaller than the 1982 Canadian acreage. However, since the survey was taken before the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) announced a $15 per tonne decline in its initial payment, the acreage reduction is expected to be even greater. It could ultimately be around 11.4 million acres or 14 per cent below that of 1982.

Although export barley prices have increased considerably during the past few months, Mr. Lyster does not expect a final payment from the CWB during the current crop year. But he does expect 1983-84 world barley prices to be above those experienced in the present crop year, and he believes higher world prices combined with the lower CWB initial payment should allow for a reasonable final payment in the coming crop year.

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Feed Grain Price Outlook (cont'd)

Non-board barley is expected to maintain a sidewards trading pattern between now and the fall, but prices are expected to be under some pressure late in the 1982-83 crop year as farm selling is increased after seeding. However, the downside risk from the current level will be limited by strength in the U.S. corn market.

Mr. Lyster thinks that non-board country elevator bids on barley are likely to bottom out this summer in the $75 to $80 per tonne range, which would be only slightly below their current level. After that he expects prices to slowly increase on into the winter of 1984.

World barley prices in 1983-84 are expected to be above those of the present crop year. And world feed grain production is expected to be well below the record 1982-83 level because of the U.S. acreage reduction programs.

The above article is based on information that was available in April, 1983.

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May 16, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATTLE PRICE OUTLOOK

Delayed U.S. marketings of fed cattle are expected to dampen spring and early summer cattle price increases in Alberta, and declining price trends are predicted from mid-summer to late fall.

Although 1983 Alberta slaughterings of fed cattle will be lower than they were in 1982, Gordon Herrington of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch explains that there will be some pressure on prices this spring and summer because of delayed U.S. marketings of fed cattle, lower prices of competitive meats and an increase in non-fed cow slaughter in Canada. He also says that the recovery of packer margins in beef will be a factor in both Canada and the United States. He does not expect prices for A1 and A2 steers in Calgary to exceed the $80 per hundredweight level during the second quarter of this year, and he predicts that fed heifer discounts will widen appreciably compared with those of early 1983.

He says the danger of market surges in fed cattle, mainly an American phenomenon, may well pressure beef prices for short periods in late May and early June, and that cow prices will probably remain relatively strong during the summer, providing that the level of culling in dairy herds does not increase. He points out that U.S. prices will determine cow prices in Canada and that discounts will be in operation during this period.

From the long-term point of view, the expected increase in pig output in North America during the last four months of 1983, and the resultant price weakness, is expected

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Cattle Price Outlook (cont'd)

to accelerate beef price declines during the third and fourth quarters of this year. Beef output is not expected to be much above that experienced in 1982, but consumption patterns will be heavily influenced by the relative price of beef and pork. As a consequence of these factors, fed cattle prices are likely to decline from late July onwards until they reach the low $70 per hundredweight level for A1 and A2 steers in Calgary by the middle of the fourth quarter.

The immediate outlook for heavyweight feeders, Mr. Herrington says, is for prices to weaken during the second quarter of this year. He believes that fall calf and feeder prices will be mainly governed by the size of the forthcoming grain crop and the overall impact of it upon grain stocks and prices as well as by the grain utilization intentions of the American livestock producers who are participating in that country's PIK program.

The above article is based on information that was available in April, 1983

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May 16, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADC LENDING RESULTS 1982-83

J. Harold Hanna, chairman and managing director of the Agricultural Development Corporation, has announced the corporation's lending results for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1983.

Direct farm lending for the year amounted to 1,485 loans and $204 million compared with 1,550 loans and $225 million in the previous year. Included in these totals are 1,197 loans to beginning farmers for $170 million, which is down from 1,290 loans and $193.5 million in 1981-82. Loans to developing and established farmers were up slightly at 288 loans for $34 million compared with 260 loans and $31.5 million in the previous year.

Specific guaranteed loans to farmers were up substantially in 1982-83. Fifty-seven loans were approved for $11.5 million compared with 35 loans and $1.8 million the previous year.

Guaranteed loans to farmers under the Alberta Farm Development Loan Program (AFDL) were also up substantially in 1982-83. A total of 5,535 loans were approved for $80 million compared with 4,546 loans and $64 million in the previous year.

Agribusiness lending in 1982-83 included 30 direct loans for $8 million compared with 37 loans and $12 million the previous year. A total of 21 guaranteed agribusiness loans were approved for $28.6 million compared with 20 loans and $14 million in 1981-82. In addition, 21 extensions to guaranteed operating loans were approved for $3.5 million.

Mr. Hanna said that although the majority of ADC's financing continued to be provided to beginning farmers, there was a general increase in the number of loans approved for financial restructuring. However, overall, the current economic conditions resulted in a

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ADC Lending Results 1982-83 (cont'd)

modest reduction in direct lending. In addition, bank financing became a more attractive option to many farmers because of the sharp decrease in interest rates. As a result, the guaranteed Alberta Farm Development Loan volume increased substantially, particularly during the second half of the fiscal year.

In keeping with ADC's objective of helping family farms establish and maintain self-sufficiency, various ADC lending and incentive programs were revised during the year. These revisions included maintaining ADC's direct farm loan preferred interest rate at 12 per cent when other mortgage rates were substantially higher; increasing the amount of loan eligibility for incentives under the Range and Soil Improvement Program and extending the purposes to which these incentives could be applied; revising the Beginning Farmer Program so that incentives are payable on the date of the loan payment to improve cash flow; and allowing increased off-farm employment for beginning and developing farmers for ar interim period of time to help them achieve self-sufficiency.

"During the coming years, ADC will continue to adapt its lending programs to the changing agricultural credit needs of Alberta's farmers," said Mr. Hanna.

ADC's lending programs are funded through the sale of debentures to the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

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May 16, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXPANDING AND MAINTAINING THE QUALITY OF THE AGRICULTURAL LAND BASE IN ALBERTA

by Helmut Entrup, Farmers' Advocate of Alberta

Agriculture built our province, sustains it and is our resource for the future. Despite the growth of other industries, agriculture is still vitally important to us all. Can we maintain or expand our agriculture production in the future?

Throughout Alberta, land is being lost to non-agriculture uses and its quality is deteriorating. The land that is available for agriculture is of a lower quality than the land now farmed, and it costs more to grow crops on poor soil. How can agriculture remain a competitive food producing industry if our costs, as they relate to production, rise excessively?

These questions have prompted the government to set up a special committee under the chairmanship of former M.L.A. for Wainwright, Charlie Stewart, to hold public hearings about our food producing lands. Specifically, these hearings will be on expanding and maintaining the quality of agriculture's land base in Alberta. They will consider the impact of urban and industrial expansion, powerlines and pipelines, roads and airports. Farming practices, like summerfallowing and the use of fertilizers and other chemicals, will be scrutinized, and agricultural research and methods to increase production will be investigated.

You can and should have an input because you may make the difference. I would like to encourage all farmers and ranchers and other concerned citizens to take advantage of the hearings to make their views known to Mr. Stewart and his committee. Positive suggestions on how our land base can be preserved, enlarged and properly utilized, with the acknowledgement that other segments of our society also have the right as user groups,

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should be submitted to the committee. This fall (after Thanksgiving Day) 16 well advertised hearings will be held in Alberta to receive input from both individuals and groups.

Farmers have neglected these issues for too long. Now is the time to take the initiative and forcefully put forward your real concerns. Others interested in our land, though involved in business totally unrelated to agriculture, and, in some cases, unsympathetic to our industry, will be there to express their views.

As a primary user of land, you cannot afford to be silent and to lose out by default. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

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May 16, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON AGRICULTURAL LAND BASE IN ALBERTA

The Environment Council of Alberta (ECA) would like everyone who plans to submit a brief at the public hearings on maintaining and expanding the agricultural land base in Alberta to send the text of his or her brief to a special five-man panel on or before September 1, 1983. The hearings are scheduled to start on October 12.

The public is being asked to submit the texts of their briefs to the panel before the hearings because of the complexity of the subject matter. The chairman of the panel, Charles Stewart of Wainwright, says "Having the texts in advance of the hearings will enable the panel to give the public a better hearing on the fairest possible basis."

Those who have submitted the texts of their briefs to the panel by September 1 will have an opportunity to choose the location and approximate time for making their presentation, while those who do not will not have this advantage.

The texts should be sent to:

Mr. Charles Stewart
Panel Chairman, Agricultural Hearings
Environment Council of Alberta
8th Floor, Weber Centre
5555 Calgary Trail
Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5P9

In addition to Mr. Stewart, the ECA panel consists of Jim Lore of Carstairs; George Walker of Edmonton; Walter Van De Walle of Legal; and Alistair Crerar of Edmonton. Mr. Crerar is the vice-chairman of the panel and the chief executive officer of the ECA.

Further information on the hearings, background material, terms of reference and other details can be obtained from the ECA at the above address or by telephoning the

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Public Hearings on Agricultural Land Base in Alberta (cont'd)

council. Callers in the Edmonton area should telephone 427-5792, while those from other areas of the province can make a toll-free call by dialing 0 and asking for Zenith 06075.

Following is a list of the places and dates on which the hearings are presently scheduled to be held:

Calgary	October 12, 13, 14
Lethbridge	October 18
Brooks	October 20
Hanna	October 25
Medicine Hat	October 27
Olds	November 1
Camrose	November 3
St. Paul	November 7
Wainwright	November 9
Evansburg	November 15
Barrhead	November 17
Peace River	November 22
Grande Prairie	November 24
Vegreville	November 29
Red Deer	December 1
Edmonton	December 5, 6, 7

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May 16, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHECK YOUR SPRAYER NOW

If herbicides are to provide good weed control without damaging the crop, they must be applied uniformly and at the correct rate.

Terry Footz, herbicide application equipment specialist with Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch, points out that many of the newer herbicides require more precise application than their predecessors because they have a narrower margin of selectivity. He also says that the misapplication of a herbicide can result in either poor weed control or crop damage.

A study carried out by Nebraska agricultural engineers in the United States showed that two out of every three farmers there were making significant errors when applying herbicides, and that these errors were costing them a lot of money. By resulting in either over or under application rates, they were costing the farmers anywhere from $2 to $12 per acre in the form of addition chemical expenses, crop damage and/or continued weed competition. The errors were caused by inaccurate sprayer calibration, the incorrect mixing of the chemical or the failure to correctly read and follow label directions.

The study also showed that the nozzle tips were the most neglected and abused part of the sprayers. In a large percentage of cases the sprayers were found to have different types of nozzles on the same boom and in one case a nozzle tip was found to be applying two and a half times more chemical than the others.

Mr. Footz urges farmers to check out their nozzle tips to make sure that they are all the same type, that they all have the same spray angle and that their output conforms to the manufacturer's specifications, and that none of the nozzle tips are worn by more than 5 per cent. He says any that are worn by more than this amount should be replaced.

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Check Your Sprayer Now (cont'd)

He also says that research findings have shown that stainless steel and nylon nozzle tips last much longer than brass tips. When the amount of money a farmer invests in herbicides every year is taken into account, the steel or nylon tips are a good investment even though they cost more than the brass tips.

Since it is impossible to accurately measure the output of nozzle tips without an accurate pressure gauge, this piece of equipment should also be carefully checked, and replaced if it is not accurate.

Finally, to achieve a uniform and correct application rate, a sprayer must be well maintained and it must be correctly calibrated. And the correct herbicide must be applied for the weeds to be controlled, the correct amount must be used and the herbicide must be applied at the correct time.

Mr. Footz says that anyone who spends a few hours and a few dollars getting his sprayer into good working order before the spraying season will be well rewarded.

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May 16, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HERB GARDENING

by Betty Vladicka, Extension Horticulturalist, Alberta Agriculture

Herbs can be grown for their decorative value, their fragrance or their culinary uses, and the location of a herb garden will depend upon the types of herbs to be grown. It can form a part of the vegetable garden or it can occupy a conspicuous spot in the landscape. But, regardless of the purpose for which the herbs are being grown, their environmental requirements must be considered.

A herb garden should be located in a protected area which is fully exposed to the sunlight, and preferably in a well drained, sandy loam soil. A high fertility soil is not necessary for herbs. In fact, most herbs produce more of the aromatic oils essential for flavor and fragrance when they are grown in a low fertility soil.

Most common herbs are easily propagated by cuttings, division or seed. Stem cuttings of seven to 10 cm, which have been taken from new growth, can be rooted in sand or vermiculite. Herbs that must be propagated in this manner include: lavender, rosemary and thyme. Tarragon and chives are propagated by division of the crown and bulbs, respectively. Garlic is planted annually from sets. The annuals and biennials are generally sown directly in the garden and they include: anise, sweet basil, borage, catnip, chervil, dill, fennel, sweet marjoram, parsley, sage and summer savory. They should be planted at a depth of at least twice the diameter of their seed in a deep, fine seedbed.

Herb gardens are relatively easy to maintain. Spraying is generally not necessary because very few herbs are subject to any serious insect or disease problems and any cultivation beyond weeding should be kept to a minimum to avoid damaging their

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Herb Gardening (cont'd)

root systems. Perennials that are to be overwintered should be mulched with straw to protect their roots , but some of the tender types must be dug up and overwintered indoors.

Herbs can be used fresh or preserved by drying or freezing, and the leaves and seeds are the parts most commonly used. The leaves should be harvested just before the flower buds open, and the seeds should be harvested when they turn brown. Harvesting is best done early in the morning, just after the dew has evaporated. At least two sets of leaves should be left at the base of each stem to encourage the plant to continue growing.

Proper drying prolongs the storage life of herbs. If they are insufficiently dried, they will lose their color and taste, and eventually become moldy. The leaves can be dried by hanging the cut stalks upside down in any warm, dry, well ventilated area. When they are thoroughly dry, they can be ground and stored in a glass or metal airtight container in a dark place. Seeds can be dried on screens one layer deep. When dry, they should be separated from the pods and sealed in containers and stored in a cool, dark place.

Additional information on herbs is contained in a federal publication entitled "Growing Savory Herbs" (Agdex 263/20-1). It can be obtained from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6.

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
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May 23, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 23, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIRECTOR OF PLANT INDUSTRY DIVISION APPOINTED

H. M. Douglas, assistant deputy minister of production, has announced the appointment of Dr. John Wiebe to the position of director of the plant industry division. He replaces Bill Dent who was promoted to assistant deputy minister of field services upon the retirement of Cy McAndrews and the subsequent reorganization of that area of responsibilities.

In his new position, Dr. Wiebe will be responsible for the five branches within the division — field crops, soils, crop protection, the tree nursery and horticultural centre, and the Alberta Research Center in Brooks. He will also be responsible for a professional staff of 70 and a total staff of 160 who provide advisory, diagnostic, legislative and research services to the whole agricultural community. The plant industry division staff work closely with other sections of Alberta Agriculture, the University of Alberta, Agriculture Canada and a wide range of farm organizations.

Dr. John Wiebe
Director of Plant Industry Division

The director of the plant industry division is expected to ensure that farmers are properly served by the department's staff and that the minister of agriculture is provided with sound advice on issues that pertain to crop production. The director's role requires both technology transfer and sound policy.

Dr. Wiebe was born southeast of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. He received his elementary schooling in Saskatoon and attended high school in Hepburn, Saskatchewan. His

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Director of Plant Industry Division Appointed (cont'd)

family moved to Ontario in 1943, and Dr. Wiebe later attended the University of Guelph, then known as the Ontario Agricultural College. He graduated in 1951 with a B. S. A. in horticulture. He then took his M. Sc. in horticulture, soils and plant breeding at Cornell University, New York, U.S.A. and graduated in 1953.

After receiving his Ph. D. from the same university in 1955, Dr. Wiebe obtained a position as a research officer at the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario, then known as the Horticultural Experimental Station in Vineland. Here he was responsible for vegetable breeding and cultural work until commercial vegetable production shifted to southwestern Ontario at which time he worked on greenhouse crops and later on fruit crops.

From 1967 to 1969 he was lent to the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization and served in Egypt on a vegetable project. Following this he returned to the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario where he remained until 1977 when he accepted the directorship of the Alberta Horticultural Research Center. He was research manager and administrator of the center until his present appointment.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEDERAL PROVINCIAL PROGRAM AIDS ALBERTA FOOD PROCESSORS

Five rural Alberta food processing firms will receive a total of $325,446 under the Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance.

Carvelle Foods of Spruce Grove will receive $191,829 to expand its burger patty line, to add a new pork sandwich product line and to expand its office, storage and maintenance areas. Total cost is estimated at $959,000 and 11 new jobs are expected to be created.

St. Paul Beverages Ltd. of St. Paul, a soft drink bottler that has been in that town for about 40 years, will receive $72,760 to upgrade its production lines and maintenance and warehouse facilities. Total cost is estimated at $363,000 and 11 new jobs are expected to be created.

The Shur Gain Division of Canada Packers Inc. will receive $43,239 to upgrade its feedmill in Wetaskiwin by including steam rolled feed for dairy cattle. The cost is estimated at $227,000 and one new job is expected to be created.

Champion Feed Services Ltd. of Westlock will receive $15,158 to install new equipment and storage bins in its feedmill. The cost is estimated at $76,000.

Stony Plain Bakery Ltd. of Stony Plain will receive $2,460 to purchase a new mixer and watermeter for its bakery, which does not use any additives or preservatives in its products.

Since the Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance was initiated in 1975, more than $20 million in assistance, equally funded by the two levels of government, has gone to rural Alberta food processors.

Further information can be obtained from Dr. Jim Wiebe, Rural Development, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 (Telephone, 427-4287).

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HOG OUTLOOK

Canadian hog prices will trend upwards during the summer and then decline for the balance of the year, according to Gordon Herrington who is with Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch.

In more specific terms, he says that 100 Index hog prices in Alberta are expected to improve from their April May lows to the mid-$75 per hundredweight range in June, and to remain in the low $70 per hundredweight range in the early part of the third quarter before declining to the low $60 range by the end of the year.

Although the general economic indicators point to a recovery in a substantial segment of the North American economy, which should translate into a stronger demand for the red meats, particularly pork, this stronger demand could be absorbed by increased production. The result would be that the economic recovery would have only a marginal impact on prices and on their prospects for improvement.

Mr. Herrington reports that an increase in hog output will be a feature of the remainder of 1983 and early 1984, but that the aggregate pork output for the whole year is not expected to be significantly higher than it was in 1982. This is because of the relatively smaller output in the first quarter, the approximate parity in the second quarter and the moderate, but increasing, output during the third and fourth quarters.

U.S. inventory estimates suggest that the second quarter hog output will be almost the same as that recorded in the second quarter of 1982. After that it is expected to increase on an expanding scale, but the strength of this expansion phase may well be moderated by rising feed costs and programs like PIK.

The above article is based on information that was available in April, 1983.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAPESEED/CANOLA OUTLOOK

Only minor rallies are expected in Canadian rapeseed/canola prices between now and late June.

However, Les Lyster, grain market economist with Alberta Agriculture, suggests that these rallies should be used to sell any remaining old crop supplies. He expects prices to drift lower later in the summer unless adverse weather conditions reduce the size of the Canadian and American oilseed crops. He says country elevator and crusher bids will probably be in the $260 to $270 per tonne range this fall. After that they are expected to move higher into the winter of 1984.

From the beginning of the present crop year to April 13, Canadian rapeseed/canola exports amounted to 881,000 tonnes or only 4 per cent below what they were in the same period in the 1981-82 crop year. However, the export pace for the balance of this crop year is expected to be below what it was in the corresponding period in 1981-82, and total 1982-83 exports are projected to be about 1.2 million tonnes or 12 per cent lower than they were in 1981-82.

The domestic disappearance (crush) of rapeseed/canola from the beginning of the 1982-83 crop year until April 13 was 700,000 tonnes or only 3 per cent below what it was in the previous crop year. However, the crush rate is expected to slow down during the balance of the 1982-83 crop year as seed supplies dwindle and widespread crusher shutdowns occur.

Mr. Lyster expects the 1982-83 crush to be around 800,000 tonnes or 15 per cent below what it was a year ago, and carryover stocks to be tight at around 525,000 tonnes. Much of the carryover will be No. 3 Canada or lower.

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Rapeseed/Canola Outlook (cont'd)

However, Canada's rapeseed/canola acreage is expected to increase substantially in 1983 compared with 1982. The Statistics Canada March Planting Intentions Report indicates that farmers intend to plant 4.98 million acres of rapeseed/canola this year, which would be 17.5 per cent above the 1982 acreage. But, since the survey was conducted before the Canadian Wheat Board announced its initial payments, there is likely to be some switching to rapeseed/canola from barley. In fact, Mr. Lyster thinks that this year's rapeseed/canola acreage will be around 5.5 million acres, which would be 30 per cent above the 1982 acreage. And it could be even higher if wheat seeding is delayed by adverse weather.

Given normal growing conditions this summer, Canada's rapeseed/canola crop is expected to be around 2.75 million tonnes, which, when combined with this year's carryover, would result in total 1983-84 supplies of nearly 3.3 million tonnes. Hence, 1983-84 supplies would be 0.5 million tonnes above those of the current crop year.

Mr. Lyster points out that quotas during 1983-84 are expected to be favorable, and rapeseed/canola will be more readily converted into cash than other crops.

He says world oilseed production during 1983-84 is most likely to be below the current year's level, and that improving economic conditions are likely to bring about a modest increase in the use of oilseeds. Hence, he expects world oilseed stocks to be drawn down during 1983-84.

The above article is based on information that was available in April, 1983.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAMB PRICE OUTLOOK

Second quarter Canadian lamb prices are expected to be in the high $70 per hundredweight range, and possibly to even reach $80 per hundredweight before tapering off to the high $50 range in the third and early fourth quarters of this year.

However, Debbie Thorsen, a market economist with Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, says that in Alberta we may have already seen this year's peak in April even though lamb prices normally peak around the end of May. She also says that we may see more lambs marketed in July and August than usual because of production changes and held-over spring lambs. If this is the case, price declines can be expected earlier than in the past, which would mean that they could bottom out in the September-October period, and then rise again until the end of the year in response to a shortage in supply after the large fall slaughter.

The American market from April to June is expected to be softer than it has been as a large number of lambs are marketed, particularly in the southwestern United States and the valleys of California.

Ms. Thorsen says, "The increase in both domestic slaughter and net imports of lamb during the first quarter of 1983, compared with the year-earlier level, indicates that Canadian consumption of this meat is on the increase and that markets are expanding". She points out that producers are adjusting their production to meet this increasing demand for lamb on a year-round basis, and that these adjustments will moderate the annual peaks and valleys of both production and prices that have been experienced in the past.

The above article is based on information that was available in April, 1983.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HONEY PRICE OUTLOOK AND SITUATION

Canadian honey prices are expected to increase slightly in conjunction with the increase in the American support price, but a further price improvement will depend upon increased exports to Japan and the European Economic Community.

Fred Boyce, special commodities analysist with Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, reports that the United States Department of Agriculture has announced an increase of 4¢ per kg in its 1983 support price. This means that honey producers in that country will receive an average loan and purchase rate of $1.37 (US) per kg for extracted bulk honey in approved storage.

According to Mr. Boyce, weather conditions in the United States were not favorable early this year for beekeepers and production may not reach last year's level. And Argentina and China are also reported to have a lower yield potential this year. Mr. Boyce says a reduction in honey production in these two major exporting countries could result in an increase in world honey prices if the main importing nations have to bid more aggressively for honey supplies this year.

He expects Canadian honey production to recover in 1983 from last year's low level. He says generally favorable moisture conditions on the Prairies and larger clover and canola acreages should improve yields, and that honey stocks have been brought down tc a more manageable level. If the present strong export pace continues, old crop supplies are expected to be very low when the new crops come in.

Mr. Boyce reports that last year's honey production in Alberta was nearly 22 per cent lower than it was in 1981 despite a 2 per cent increase in the number of colonies.

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Honey Price Outlook and Situation (cont'd)

On a provincial basis, yields were down nearly 24 per cent with the average being only 46 kg per colony compared with 55 kg in 1981 and 51 kg for the previous 10-year period. Mr. Boyce says the honey producers in the Peace River region, where yields were only 55 per cent of the previous five-year average period, recorded the lowest yields in the province as a result of extremely dry weather and a sharp reduction in clover and canola acreages.

Producer and wholesale prices for Alberta bulk honey have been mainly in the range of $1.28 to $1.35 per kg since last fall. And a stong export demand has drawn down available supplies, with the result that producer stocks are becoming limited.

The above article was based on information that was available in April, 1983.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEASURES TO COUNTERACT A SHORTAGE OF FORAGE

If you farm north of Red Deer, the chances are you will be short of pasture this summer and short of forage next winter.

Ron Weisenburger, who is head of the nutrition section of Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch, says that many pastures north of Red Deer did not receive enough snow last winter or enough rain this spring to stimulate the early growth of perennial forages. Since most of their growth occurs during May and June, a shortage of soil moisture in the spring will reduce the amount of forage they produce even if mid-summer moisture is adequate.

So what can you do? First, Mr. Weisenburger recommends making a preliminary estimate of your pasture and hay production for this season. If you think you will be short of either pasture or hay or both, you may want to:

- Consider confining your beef cows in a small part of your total pasture until about the middle of June. By giving the remainder of the pasture an additional month to grow, you can markedly increase the amount of forage it will produce this season.

Mr. Weisenburger points out that it will be necessary to continue feeding cows that are confined to a small area of the pasture. He says "As a general rule, they should receive about the same amount of feed as they were receiving during the winter feeding period". And he recommends substituting grain for some of the hay that was being fed before the cows went on pasture, because, in most cases, it will be cheaper than feeding hay. However, he does not recommend feeding a liquid protein supplement because spring forage

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Measures to Counteract a Shortage of Forage (cont'd)

contains more than enough protein for cows. It is energy that is lacking where pasture growth is short, and this requirement can best be met by feeding some grain.

Mr. Weisenburger stresses that the breeding herd should be given priority from the point of view of feed when pasture is short. "If its breeding performance is impaired through a lack of nutrition, the result", he says, "will be fewer and later calves next spring".

- Fertilize your tame pasture if you receive a good rain mid-summer. You can double the yield of tame grass pastures and tame land hay by fertilizing them when moisture conditions are adequate.
- Graze your grass hay land if you must use some hay land for pasture this season Whenever possible, leave the legume forage for hay because it provides a better second cut than the grasses.
- Consider planting a cereal this spring for use as silage or greenfeed if you think you will be short of forage next winter.
- And consider planting a cereal crop in mid-summer if you think you are going to be short of pasture in the late summer and/or fall. These crops provide an excellent source of late season forage.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOIL AND SPRAY ADDITIVES

The promotion of unlicensed soil and spray additives is on the increase. So beware of misleading advertising and sales brochures!

Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturalist at Rimbey, Gordon Bacon, says when government personnel ask for information on these unlicensed products, they seldom find any valid test results, and that is probably the reason they are not licensed.

Wetting agents, surfactants and adjuvants or soaps are among the unlicensed soil additives for which unfounded claims are often made. The promoters may claim that they release "locked in" soil minerals, that they increase the soil's moisture infiltration and moisture-holding capacity, that they improve soil tilth, etc.. However, even when such claims have been based on experimental results, other researchers have not been able to duplicate them.

According to Mr. Bacon, a recent study that was reported at the American Society of Agronomy stated that: "In a series of replicated field trials over three years at the University of Wisconsin, non-ionic, surfactant-type wetting agents were found to have no positive effect as a soil additive on the yield, quality or nutrient content of the crops grown".

And in an experiment carried out on seven soil additives at the federal research station in Lethbridge, it was found that these products had no effect on grain or straw yields, nor on any of the measured yield components of either stressed or unstressed wheat. "On the basis of these results", says Mr. Bacon, "one cannot help being very sceptical about the claims that are made for wetting agents".

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Soil and Spray Additives (cont'd)

Mr. Bacon reports that claims made for enzymes are usually connected with the release of nutrients from soil organic matter (mineralization). However, in practice, there are two problems associated with the use of enzymes to speed up mineralization. One is that there are many enzymes involved in the reaction sequence of the mineralization process, and the other is that the enzymes are very quickly inactivated when added to the soil. "Even if the rate of mineralization of organic matter could be increased by the use of enzymes", says Mr. Bacon, "its desirability is very questionable. We should be more concerned about maintaining the soil's organic matter level than about increasing its rate of mineralization".

Salesmen of surfactants often use testimonials to promote these products. However, all too often the validity of the testimonials is questionable. Because many herbicides have a surfactant included in their formulation to balance their performance and to prevent crop injury, a surfactant should only be added to a product if its label recommends such an addition, and then only the surfactant that is recommended should be added. The use of a surfactant when it is not recommended or the use of the wrong one could change the balance of the herbicide's formulation and result in poor weed control and/or serious crop damage.

Mr. Bacon says the above comments are not intended to categorically condemn soil and spray additivies, but rather to warn farmers to be cautious if they are asked to buy an unlicensed product. "Remember", he says, "it is extremely unlikely that someone would be selling a product that represents a scientific breakthrough without the rest of the scientific community knowing about the product".

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF GREENHOUSE PESTS

Although the use of biological control agents to suppress pest populations is not new, there has been an upsurge of interest in the idea during the last decade.

Marilyn Steiner, an entomologist at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, says this increase in interest is at least partly due to the failure of many chemical insecticides to live up to their earlier promise of being a panacea for all pest problems. She points out that the increasing problems with pest resistance to insecticides, escalating chemical costs and environmental concerns have given new impetus to the research that is going on into alternative control methods. These methods include biological control and its integration into pest management systems.

According to Ms. Steiner, Alberta cucumber growers have successfully used the predatory mite *Phytoseiulus persimilis* during the past three years to control the two spotted spider mite in their greenhouses. The predatory mites were provided by a firm called Applied Bionomics of Sidney, British Columbia. This firm also supplies other types of predators and parasites that will control a number of common greenhouse pests. With this in mind Ms. Steiner approached the staff at the Muttart Conservatory in Edmonton in late 1980 and asked them whether they would be interested in using biological control agents in their tropical pavilion as part of a pilot project. Their response was an enthusiastic yes!

The project was concluded last summer with very encouraging results, but while it was in progress Ms. Steiner monitored the conservatory plants every week to see how well the parasites and predators she had introduced were doing and to make sure they did not get out of control. She says that biological control agents must be introduced during a very specific time to avoid damaging the plants before control is acheived. And she reports that as a result of the introduction every month of predatory mites the spider-mite population in the conservatory had been reduced to an almost non-detectible level by the end of the 18-month monitoring period.

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Biological Control Of Greenhouse Pests (cont'd)

Ms. Steiner says the white fly situation in the conservatory was similar to that of the spider mite -- in other words there were plenty of them. However, after a tiny parastic wasp had been introduced several times during the spring of 1981 and 1982, the white fly situation had also been reduced to a negligible level. And the number of mealy-bugs, which at one time posed a serious problem, has now been greatly reduced by the release into the greenhouse of a predatory Australian ladybeetle and a tiny Brazilian wasp.

What was the situation when biological control began to replace chemical control in the conservatory? Ms. Steiner says "There were a few surprises in the form of a number of previously unnoticed and minor pest problems when chemical sprays were no longer used routinely on the ornamental and tropical plants." She also says that there are a number of other biological control agents being used in some well established crops, like citrus crops, but that they have not yet been used in a conservatory .

She sums up the results that she has obtained from her pilot project in the Muttart Conservatory as "very encouraging". And she points out that, despite the fact that chemical spraying has been reduced to the occasional spot treatment of an individual plant pest, damage to the plants is considerably less than it was before the biological control agents were introduced. Ms. Steiner says that the Muttart Conservatory staff are continuing to use the biological control methods that she introduced and that they could also be useful for large indoor plantings as well as for hobby greenhouses.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FERTILIZING LAWNS

Fertilizer is necessary to keep an established lawn healthy, green, and growing well. "But," says Phil Dixon, district agriculturalist at Rocky Mountain House, "too much fertilizer could mean too much growth and you will find yourself mowing your lawn constantly."

When your established lawn first begins to grow in the spring, a good application of nitrogen will get the lawn growing well. "Nitrogen," adds Mr. Dixon, "helps a plant grow vegetatively, and this is exactly what you want."

The next application should be done during the first two weeks of July. This second application will provide the lawn with enough nutrition to last the rest of the growing season. Mr. Dixon adds, "Never apply fertilizer after August 15, or you could find yourself with a winterkill problem because the grass was still growing when it should have been hardening off for winter."

Mr. Dixon says, "Apply the fertilizer when the humidity is low and the turf dry. This will avoid the problem of burning the grass. Apply water when you have the fertilizer on the lawn, and soak the lawn quite well."

"We all know what happens when fertilizer is applied unevenly," Mr. Dixon points out. "You end up with patchy growth and quite a mess. Using a fertilizer spreader, apply the fertilizer in two directions at right angles to each other."

There are quite a few fertilizers available from garden shops and fertilizer dealers. You can use 11-48-0 at 4.5 kg/100 m^2, or 16-20-0 at 3 kg/100 m^2, or 34-0-0 at 1.5 kg/100 m^2.

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HOME VEGETABLE GARDENING IN ALBERTA

A home gardener should know the growing habits of each vegetable so that he or she can prevent the growth of one plant hindering that of its neighbor.

In the case of height, the main consideration is the shade cast by tall plants. For example, lettuce that is planted between rows of corn will do well in hot weather, but heat and light-loving plants like cucumbers, tomatoes and peppers should be planted well away from corn. However, there are plants that will benefit from the shade and wind protection that are provided by corn plants.

Since the roots of garden vegetables feed at varying soil depths, planting a shallow-rooted crop like lettuce or spinach beside a vegetable with a deep root like carrots or parsnips will eliminate severe competition for both moisture and nutrients.

Another thing that the home gardener should be aware of is that the roots of some plants draw on moisture and nutrients from a considerable area. Tomatoes are an example of such a plant. Few other vegetable plants can compete with their massive root system, but corn on the other hand, has a very limited root system.

And two plant species that both require plenty of water and nutrients might be ill-suited to being neighbors unless their roots feed at different depths. However, eggplants and celery might be worth trying together, even though both demand a lot of water and a lot of nitrogen because their roots do feed at different depths.

Some plants need full sun while others benefit from partial shade. Cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, lettuce and peas are a few of the crops which can tolerate some shade.

Many gardeners think that one crop must be gone before another can be planted. However, a second crop can be introduced into the row or between two rows once the first

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Home Vegetable Gardening in Alberta (cont'd)

is off to a good start. If the timing is right, the second crop will not interfere with the maturation of the first, which will be out of the way by the time the second one needs space. Lettuce and cucumbers and corn and pumpkins or winter squash are good examples of vegetables that may be planted in this way.

Anyone who is interested in this subject will find the vegetable compatibility guide in Alberta Agriculture's new publication entitled "Home Vegetable Gardening in Alberta" very interesting.

This publication also contains a great deal of other information on gardening. In addition to the conventional aspects of gardening, it covers the culture of specific vegetables, organic gardening, composting, salvaging vegetables from frost, storing vegetables, fall seeding and container gardening.

"Home Vegetable Gardening in Alberta" (Agdex 250/20-3) can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture's district offices or from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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AGRI-NEWS

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ALBERTA SURFACE RIGHTS ACT, 1983

LeRoy Fjordbotten, Alberta's minister of agriculture, has introduced Bill 60, the Alberta Surface Rights Act, 1983, to the Alberta Legislature.

"With the changes being made to the existing Surface Rights Act, along with the new concepts being introduced, we are in fact tabling a new Surface Rights Act, rather than a series of amendments to the existing legislation," said Mr. Fjordbotten.

Several changes occur in the area of compensation, including revisions to lease renewals and the introduction of required compensation from energy operators to landowners prior to the energy operators gaining access to an owner's land.

"Unfortunately," said Mr. Fjordbotten, "energy resource development often has an impact on land used in agricultural production.

"These changes reflect concerns brought to the attention of the Legislature's Select Committee on Surface Rights whose report is the base document for this legislation.

"However, surface rights is a very complex issue, and development of new surface rights legislation has required a significant input from my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly to balance the needs of both the agricultural and energy industries."

The changes will shift the responsibility for beginning negotiation upon the renewal of a surface lease from the landowner to the energy operator. In addition, well site leases entered into before 1972, and major power transmission line leases signed before 1977, will now be renegotiable. If satisfactory agreements are not reached by June 1, 1985, these cases may then be taken to the Surface Rights Board (SRB) for an order to vary compensation and other conditions.

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Alberta Surface Rights Act, 1983 (cont'd)

A mandatory "entry fee"has been introduced into this Bill. It will be a one-time payment by an operator when he first seeks access to the surface of privately owned deeded land, whether through a surface lease or a right-of-entry order. The fee will be in addition to any compensation awarded by the SRB or inherent in a surface lease.

The entry fee has been set at $500 per acre, with the minimum payment being $250 and the maximum $5,000 for each titled parcel.

Other changes in the area of compensation include a revised definition of land value and give the SRB authority to ignore residual-reversionary rights. Energy operators will also be required to prepay compensation prior to gaining access to deeded land under a right-of-entry order. This payment will be 80 per cent of their most recent written offer to landholders.

Other items deal with procedures for handling surface rights in the province. The overall time frame for SRB procedures is being reduced in response to input from the energy industry. Surface rights mediators, which were discussed as a possible means of expediting cases before the SRB, will not be appointed.

A stronger link between the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) and the SRB will be forged. The responsibilities of both boards will remain about the same, but the SRB will have access to the information inherent in ERCB decisions on such items as site selection. This should also reduce the administrative impact on both the industry and the landowner.

A number of concerns or subjects raised in the report of the Select Committee have been set aside for further study. These include a library of surface rights agreements and various aspects of site reclamation. Recommendations on seismic and geophysical

Alberta Surface Rights Act, 1983 (cont'd)

activities are, in part, already dealt with under other programs and legislation. General aspects of land use will be raised in the Land Use Hearings, soon to be held by the Environmental Council of Alberta.

"Because of the nature of the issue, development of this legislation has taken many months," said the minister.

"To the landowners and occupants, to the energy industry, I say thank you for your comments and advice. The result is before you. Its intent is to ensure a continuing balance and compromise between the two industries that are the basis of our province's economic development and prosperity."

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FORAGE SEED MARKET OUTLOOK

The forage seed market has experienced a dramatic turn-around compared with this time last year.

Fred Boyce, Alberta Agriculture's special commodities analyst, reports that low production of most of the major forage seed crops, combined with generally small inventories and a much greater demand, especially for legumes, has provided a strong boost to prices.

He says the price increase is particularly noticeable for clover seed, which has more than doubled since last fall for some types of clover. Grass seed prices have also improved but not nearly as much as clover seed prices.

Forage seed production is expected to recover in 1983 from its poor showing last year. And moisture conditions are generally favorable in most of the growing areas. Mr. Boyce expects the acreage of forage seed crops that will be harvested this year to rebound to a more normal level, especially in the case of clovers. He says little winterkill, plus last year's increase in the clover acreage, should result in a much larger crop this year.

In summary, lower farm and dealer inventories for most of the forage seed crops and a strong export demand are expected to provide the impetus that will be needed to maintain currently favorable prices in the coming season.

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PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES FOR GLEAN

Glean is an excellent new herbicide, but anyone who is considering using it should first find out his soil type, its pH level and have a plan of the crops he intends to grow on the treated land for the next three or four years.

This is the opinion of Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of weed control and herbicides, Walter Yarish. He says that Glean, which was registered for use last year, will control most of the serious broad-leaved weed species in both wheat and barley, but that it is showing a higher residual level in soils that have a high pH value than had been anticipated. While this characteristic is an added bonus for farmers who grow only wheat and barley, it could cause problems for farmers whose cropping programs call for a cereal/canola or a cereal/forage rotation because of possible damage to these crops.

Mr. Yarish says it was originally thought that Glean's residual activity would not last more than a couple of years, but that recent tests have indicated that it may remain active for three and even four years, depending upon weather conditions, the type of soil and its pH level. However, the manufacturers of Glean stress that it does not accumulate in the soil; it simply remains active at a very low concentration.

Because Glean can remain active in the soil for longer than had been anticipated, several new precautionary measures have been added to this year's label. For example, the label states that Glean should not be used on land where crop rotations other than wheat and barley will be used; that farmers who intend to seed crops other than wheat or barley on land that was treated with Glean last year should first have the soil tested to determine the residual level; and that both wheat and barley can be recropped the year following treatment on land that has a pH of 7 or less, but that only wheat should be recropped on land that has a pH level of higher than 7 because of potential injury to barley.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1983 FEEDERS' DAY PROGRAM

"Double Muscling in Cattle" is the title of one of 10 research subjects that will be discussed at this year's Feeders' Day, scheduled to take place at the University of Alberta's ranch at Kinsella on June 17.

In this presentation, Dr. Roy Berg, who will become dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry in July of this year, will compare the meat yield and the carcass composition of double-muscled cattle with those of normal cattle. Double muscling is an inherited characteristic which produces animals that yield a great deal more red meat than normal cattle.

In his other presentation, Dr. Berg will update the performance results and the progress in selection that has been achieved with the two lines of beef cattle that have been developed at Kinsella by combining breeds into synthetic populations. Results will be compared with a control group.

Those who attend Feeders' Day will see these and the double-muscled cattle during a tour of the ranch.

Dr. Tarjei Tennessen's topic will be "The Behavior of Bulls — Is There Anything To Worry About?". Research carried out at the University of Alberta and elsewhere has shown that there are some advantages to raising bulls for beef as opposed to raising steers. And Dr. Tennessen will deal with such things as whether bulls show more aggressive and sexual behavior than steers; how they respond to handling and transportation; and the precautions that must be taken when marketing them.

Dr. Gary Mathison will talk about "Feed Additives and Growth Promotants for Beef Cattle". He will cover Ralgro, Synovex, Compudose, Rumensin and Bovatec.

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1983 Feeders' Day Program (cont'd)

Dr. M. Makarechian's presentation is entitled "Studies on Reproduction in Beef Cattle at Kinsella". He will outline the research that has been done to date on the reproduction of both male and female cattle. And he will present preliminary results on relationships that have been found to exist between scrotal circumference, libido score and the natural service fertility of bulls; the effect of mating systems on conception rates; and the effect that the presence of a teaser bull has on the reproductive performance of heifers bred to calve at two years of age.

Dr. Bob Christopherson's topic will be "Winter Shelter for Cattle". He will talk about the effect that winter weather has on the feed requirements of cattle and the benefits that can be expected from different types of shelter.

Dr. John Kennelly will discuss "Maximizing Profit from Milk Production". He will outline some of the important factors that are involved in maximizing the profitability of a dairy enterprise when a decrease in the demand for milk and milk products results in smaller quotas.

Dr. Willem Sauer's presentation, entitled "An Evaluation of Feedstuffs for Horses", will cover some aspects of the University of Alberta's recent studies on horse feeds. At the present time horse feed recommendations are usually based on extrapolated data that are designed for cattle, sheep and even pigs.

Dr. Robert Hudson's presentation is entitled "Wapiti (Elk) on Farms — Turning a Problem into a Solution". He will trace the seasonal cycle of these animals, explore marketing opportunities and recommend practical range and management systems. The Alberta government is showing an interest in permitting commercial game ranching and

1983 Feeders' Day Program (cont'd)

farming, and the wapiti appears to be well suited to such an endeavour because of its productivity and the very high market demand it enjoys.

Finally, Dr. Arthur Bailey will discuss "Brush Control on Rangelands — New Developments". He will review the progress that has been made in the development of new procedures, and he will emphasize the potential of prescribed burning for ranges and pasture lands in Alberta.

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FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR FORECAST

Residents of both central and northern Alberta can look forward to another season of forest tent caterpillars, according to Dr. Ulf Soehngen who bases his prediction on a report released by the Northern Forest Research Institute of Environment Canada in Edmonton. Dr. Soehngen is an entomologist with the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

A survey of egg bands, carried out by the Northern Forest Research Institute last October, showed that there would be moderate to heavy infestations of tent caterpillars from Red Deer north to Fort McMurray and north of Peace River if hatching conditions were favorable and there was no unexpected increase in diseases or parasites.

However, Dr. Soehngen says that only 42 per cent of the locations sampled last fall are likely to experience severe defoliation compared with 68 last year. He feels that this decline in the number of severe infestations could also mean a decline in the overall problem.

For people who are wondering whether they should try to control forest tent caterpillars on individual trees in their yards or gardens, Dr. Soehnger says "Control measures are indicated if a tree 3 m or less in height contains one egg band or 'nest' of caterpillars. In the case of trees that have a trunk diameter of 7 cm or more, control measures should only be initiated if there are 7 or more egg bands per tree".

The following chemicals may be used.

*Carbaryl WP	1.25 - 1.6 g/L
Diazinon EC	50 g/100L
*Malathion EC	50 g/100L

*Registered for use on fruit trees.

People in heavily infested areas might consider pooling their resources and hiring an aerial applicator to spray the area because ground chemical applications are difficult when there are a number of trees involved.

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EFFECTIVE GRAZING DISTRIBUTION

To be effective a grazing distribution system must be a part of an overall grazing management plan that includes a proper stocking rate.

Robert Hand, regional livestock supervisor with Alberta Agriculture, says the goal of any grazing distribution system should be to use as many techniques as possible to encourage livestock to uniformly graze the entire pasture.

Following are some of the techniques he suggests.

- Periodically relocating salt and minerals. When moved, they should be placed within sight of the old location, and they should be placed up to half a mile away from the watering facility to discourage the animals from hanging around that area. Cattle usually go from the watering facility to graze, then to the salt, then to graze again and then back to the water.
- Locating watering facilities in key positions. For maximum production from dairy cows and pasture yearlings the distance of the water from the forage should not be more than a quarter to a half a mile, but distances of up to a mile are acceptable for beef cows with calves and for maintenance animals, providing that the terrain is not to steep and rough. In high use grazing areas, the watering facilities are sometimes closed off to encourage grazing elsewhere.
- Using fly control eartags, oilers or dust bags in areas where flies interfere with grazing. The oilers and dust bags should preferably be located in gateways so that the livestock cannot avoid them. However, they can also be placed near salt licks and watering facilities. But, they should not be too close to the water because they tend to hold the animals in the watering area for too long.

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Effective Grazing Distribution (cont'd)

- Rotating grazing. This technique necessitates dividing a large pasture into small units which are then heavily grazed for three to six days. Ideally, each unit should have a rest period of from 21 to 30 days. And the grazing pressure or the pasture size should be adjusted to give a uniform clip after three to six days.
- Feeding grain to attract cattle to underutilized pasture areas. When this technique is used the grain intake is usually restricted by hand feeding or by mixing the grain with salt. Further information on grain feeding on pasture can be obtained from Alberta Agricultures's publication, "Supplemental Feeding of Yearlings on Pasture" (Agdex 420/56-1), which is available from the print media branch.
- Clipping the pasture to remove unpalatable mature stems and heads when these are present. Regrowth will be encouraged and the animals will graze the new growth more evenly.
- Fertilizing the pasture to increase its productivity. Studies have shown that cattle return to graze fertilized grass more frequently than they do to unfertilized grass. A heavy application of manure on an overgrazed area will keep cattle away for a time and supply the grass with much needed nutrients.
- Removing weeds and brush to improve the grazing distribution in pastures where the quality of forage in some areas is being reduced by weeds and/or brush.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PESTICIDES AND BEES

"All beekeepers should keep in close touch with local farmers, their municipal officials and pesticide applicators during the spraying season", says Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of apiculture, Donald MacDonald.

He strongly advises beekeepers to provide their local agricultural fieldman and aerial applicators with information on the location of their bee hives, and, ideally, with a map that shows their exact location. "This", he says, "will enable those involved in spraying programs to keep the beekeeper informed of pending spraying operations".

Bees can be confined to their hives during and after spraying by blocking the entrances with wet burlap. And it is a good idea to add another super with a frame feeder containing water so that the bees have room to cluster. If it is necessary to confine them for more than a day, the entrances to the hives should be opened in the evening after the bees have stopped flying and closed again the following morning before they start flying. When the weather is hot and the hives are strong, the bees should be provided with plenty of water inside the hive and a screen should be put across the entrance and across the top of the hive to provide ventilation.

Mr. MacDonald says, as a general rule, if a crop is sprayed in the evening, the bees should be confined to their hives until noon the following day.

Another thing to remember is that some insecticides are more harmful than others to bees. For example, Dipel, a biological insecticide used to control caterpillars is harmless to bees, and malathion, because it degrades very fast, will do little harm if the bees are confined for a few hours. However, dimethoate is much more persistent, and, consequently, much more of a threat.

According to Mr. MacDonald, Alberta Agriculture is continuing to test a number of recently developed insecticides which are believed to be harmless to bees.

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May 30, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1983 ALBERTA WOMEN'S WEEK

CBC Radio's well known consumer commentator, Ethel Marliss, and the managing editor of "Farm Wife News", Ruth Benedict, will be the featured speakers at this year's Alberta Women's Week, scheduled to take place at Olds College, Olds, from July 18 - 21.

In keeping with the theme of Alberta Women's Week, "Lean Years — Learning Years", Ethel Marliss will draw on her familiarity with the plight of today's consumer in her opening address and on her knowledge of available resources to suggest ways of adjusting lifestyles to today's economic times.

Throughout her long career, Ethel Marliss has been a friend to the consumer. In addition to her present positions of consumer commentator in Edmonton for CBC Radio and consumer columnist with the Edmonton Sun, she has held positions on the First Advisory Committee of Consumers and the Women's Regional Advisory Committee to the Wartime Prices Board. She is a charter member of the Consumers' Association of Canada and has been an executive officer and president of the Alberta branch. She also holds honorary memberships in the Delta Kappa Gamma Society and the Alberta Home Economics Association.

As managing editor of the American magazine, "Farm Wife News", Ruth Benedict has traced the evolving role of both American and Canadian farm and ranch women, and she will use this knowledge and experience to relate how women can tap their inner resources to make financially difficult times a positive learning experience.

Prior to joining "Farm Wife News", which has 330,000 subscribers, she spent three-and-a-half years as a regional correspondent for several daily newspapers in

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1983 Alberta Women's Week (cont'd)

New York State, and has edited three craft and four rural lifestyle books. She has also won several feature writing awards.

Many of the select-a-session topics on this year's program will also focus on "Lean Years — Learning Years". Their titles are "Nutrition in Paperback — Fact or Fiction"; "A Byte of the Basics — Computers Come Home"; "Investing in Dressing"; "Career Planning -- What It's All About"; "Home Vegetable Gardening in Alberta"; "Food Preservation — How To Get Started — How To Get Better"; "Discover and Promote a Positive Rural Lifestyle " (Ruth Benedict); "Wills and Estates"; "Use Your Skills to Lower Your Bills"; "Make the Most of Your Small Appliances"; "Beat the High Cost of Christmas"; "Financial Planning for Women"; "Home Energy Workshop"; and "Powder Puff Newborn Livestock Care".

Each participant in Alberta Women's Week can choose four select-a-sessions out of the 14.

This year's registration fee is only $15 per adult. The fee for children is $30 per child or $50 for two or more children, and there is a child care service available. Room and board at the college will cost $92 per adult and $46 per child. Meals are available for participants who do not stay at the college at a cost of $4 for breakfast, $5.30 for lunch and $6.50 for dinner.

And in addition to exhibits and displays, there will be an early bird draw for those whose 1983 Alberta Women's Week registrations are post marked before June 20. The registration deadline is June 27.

Further information on the program, accommodation, etc. can be obtained from Karen Hoover, home economics branch, Westlock - 349-4465 and from Helen Raynard, home economics branch, Edmonton — 436-9380.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INSECT PROBLEMS ON TREES

Have you checked your trees lately? You may not be a tree expert, but, with a little careful observation, you can usually get a pretty good idea whether you have an insect problem.

Insect damage to leaves can appear as pieces missing out of the leaves, yellow blotches on the leaves, snake-like channels in the leaves, or leaves tied together in tiers or just very wrinkled leaves, and swellings on the leaves or their stems.

In the case of conifers, an insect attack is often indicated by the presence of small white oval spots, white wool between the needles, a network of fine cobwebs and swollen branch tips.

The sudden wilting and death of all or most of the leaves on a deciduous tree may be caused by winter injury or by die-back disease. In conifers winter injury shows up in the spring in the form of brown needles.

The yellowing of all or most of the leaves on a deciduous tree may indicate a nutritional deficiency, while yellow or brown, small or large irregular blotches may indicate spray injury.

Galls on the trunks or branches of a tree can indicate either an insect or a disease problem. And sawdust coming from small holes in the trunk is an indication that borers are at work.

Glen Werner, district agriculturist at Stettler, says the following are some common insects to watch for at this time of year:

- Aphids. Often called plant lice, they suck the sap out of the leaves. Discolored spots, usually on the undersides of the leaves, are the first sign of attack. Rolled leaves and the sticky honeydew given off by these insects are other signs.

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Insect Problems on Trees (cont'd)

- Birch leaf miner. These insects leave small pale green areas on the leaves of birch trees in early June. As they continue to feed, the spots gradually turn brown and destroy the leaf.
- Forest tent caterpillar. These insects, which are present in late May and in June, eat the leaves of deciduous trees. They are particularly partial to aspen and poplar leaves.
- Spruce spider mite. These insects cause the needles of spruce trees to turn a dingy yellow or brownish color before they dry up and drop off. The discoloration usually begins in the lower branches near the trunk. Fine webs on the undersides of the branches and a dark, dusty appearance are signs of spruce spider mites.
- Yellow-headed spruce sawfly. The larvae of this insect eat the needles of conifers, and they are active from late May until about the middle of June. The larvae are green and have a brown-yellow head. The damage usually goes unnoticed until the trees start to look brown, by which time there is little that can be done.

May 30, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARMERS MARKET TIME IN ALBERTA

The opening of farmers' markets is a sure sign of spring in Alberta.

This spring and summer nearly 100 farmers' markets all the way from Pincher Creek in the south to Fort McMurray in the north will be selling fresh local garden produce. And, if you have never visited a farmers' market before, you will be surprised at the quality and variety of products.

As Debbie Brekke, district home economist at Airdrie, points out, each market is different and products being sold can even vary from one week to the next. Although most markets specialize in home-grown fruits and vegetables, there are usually lots of other things as well. They include fresh eggs, honey, local craft items, house plants, delicious home-baking products, etc..

"For anyone who is on holiday and visiting a new area, there is no better place than the local farmers' market to find out about the community", says Ms. Brekke. "And there is always someone around to chat with, exchange news with and to have a coffee with".

Sunny, the girl with the hat, hoe and basket of vegetables, is the symbol of farmers' markets in Alberta. When you see her, you know that a farmers' market is not very far away.

If you would like to know more about farmers' markets, ask you district home economist or district agriculturist for the 1983-84 farmers' market calendar. It lists all the markets in the province, gives their locations, tells when each opens and closes for the season and gives the days and hours that each is in operation. It also tells the product that is featured each month and it gives the dates of all the Christmas markets. And every month it features a delicious recipe!

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May 30, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TIPS ON SEEDING A NEW LAWN

The last few years have seen a lot of new homeowners obtain an "instant" lawn by using sod, but this trend may be changing.

In fact, the current recession may see a lot of people going back to the old way of establishing a lawn, which, according to Phil Dixon, is, in addition to being more economical, much more gratifying. Mr. Dixon is district agriculturalist at Rocky Mountain House.

He says the most important things for people who plan to grow their own lawns to remember is to use the proper seed and to sow it at the proper depth. He recommends using a grass mixture containing 50 per cent Kentucky bluegrass and 50 per cent creeping red fescue at a rate of 2.5 kg/100 m (5 pounds/1000 square feet) where moisture is not a problem and the lawn will be in a sunny location. Where moisture is not a problem and the lawn will be in a shady location, he recommends using 25 per cent rough stalked bluegrass and 75 per cent creeping red fescue at a rate of 2.5 kg/100 m .

When shopping for Kentucky bluegrass look for the cultivars Nugget, Sydsport, Baron or Fylking, he says. Dawson and Boreal are both good creeping red fescue cultivars.

In the drier areas of the province, where supplementary water is not available, Mr. Dixon recommends using either the Fairway variety of crested wheatgrass at a rate of 3 kg/100 m or Russian wild rye at the rate of 5.5 kg/100 m .

What is the best time to plant a lawn? June is the best time, according to Mr. Dixon, but a new lawn can be planted anytime between May 15 and September 1. June is considered to be the best month because it has the best soil and moisture conditions.

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Tips on Seeding a New Lawn (cont'd)

The next thing to remember is that the seedbed should contain at least 15 cm of good top soil that has been well worked, is fertile and free of weeds. "Don't try to establish a new lawn on anything less than 15 cm of good top soil", says Mr. Dixon, "or you will have problems in a few years time".

Since it is very difficult to get weed-free top soil, the best thing to do is to induce the weeds to grow by watering the soil, and then cultivate them out or destroy them with a herbicide.

Mr. Dixon also strongly recommends incorporating a high phosphate fertilizer such as 11-48-0 at the rate of 4.5 kg/100 m into the soil before seeding a lawn. And he says proper seeding is very important. In fact, a poor seeding job will be evident for years to come.

For best results, he suggests, dividing the seed into two equal parts and sowing one half in one direction and the other half in the opposite direction. He says it is worth renting a calibrated broadcaster for this job because it spreads the seed so evenly. It can be rented from most garden centres.

After the lawn has been seeded, use a light fan-type rake to cover the seed and roll the soil with a lawn roller. At this point many people spread a thin layer of peat moss over the soil to get an even germination by keeping the seed and the soil moist.

"The seedbed must be kept moist", says Mr. Dixon, "until the lawn becomes established".

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTAINER GARDENING

Clay and plastic pots, old pails, bushel baskets and even wooden boxes can all be used for containers. Wooden boxes should be lined with plastic that has a few holes in it to permit excess water to drain away. The size and number of containers will vary with the type of plants to be grown and the availability of space.

Fifteen cm (6 in.) pots are satisfactory for chives and similar plants, while 25 cm (10 in.) pots will be needed for miniature tomatoes, radishes, etc. Large plants like standard-sized tomatoes can be grown in baskets or pails. The containers should have good drainage, which can be provided by placing a layer of gravel or broken pieces of clay pot in the bottom of the container or by drilling holes along the sides of containers that do not have drainage holes.

An artificial soil is recommended for vegetables that are grown in a container from seed because it is disease and weed-free. Artificial soil can be bought at many seed and garden stores or it can be prepared at home. Home preparation entails thoroughly mixing 36 L (one bushel) each of peat moss and vermiculite, 0.45 kg (1 lb.) of dolomitic limestone, 112 g (¼ lb.) of 20 per cent superphosphate and 225 g (0.5 lb.) of a 5-10-5 fertilizer.

Most vegetables require full sunlight, but, as a general rule, leafy vegetables can tolerate more shade than either root or fruiting vegetables, and root vegetables can tolerate more shade than the fruiting types.

Container-grown plants require plenty of water and regular fertilizing with a water-soluble fertilizer at three-week intervals after they have been transplanted. They should be thoroughly watered and the fertilizer applied one to two hours later. Never apply a fertilizer when the soil is dry.

Additional information of this subject and information on many topics related to planting and harvesting a home garden are contained in the publication "Home Vegetable Gardening in Alberta" (Agdex 250/20-3). It can be obtained from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6.

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May 30, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE HOLDS OPEN HOUSE

The Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville will hold an "open house" from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on June 10.

The research projects that will be of particular interest to farmers will be those dealing with plant diseases, weed control, herbicide testing and livestock and crop insect monitoring and control as well as the one on "problem" wildlife.

There will also be demonstrations and displays on animal science research projects and on the environmental analysis of water and air.

For further information on the "open house", which is free and open to anyone who would like to attend, contact Jim Bradley at 632-6767.

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
JUN 2 8 1983

June 6, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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June 6, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROCESSED ALFALFA OUTLOOK

The current outlook for Western Canada's processed alfalfa industry is generally favorable, according to Fred Boyce, special commodities analyst with Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch.

He reports that the export demand and prices for processed alfalfa products have been very good thus far in 1983, and that Western Canada stocks are very low. In fact, most plants will have very little or no carryover from the current crop year.

Mr. Boyce also says, that, in view of the generally favorable moisture conditions that have prevailed across the Prairies, first cut alfalfa yields should be much better than they were last year. These higher yields, plus stable to an increased acreage, will mean a bigger supply of alfalfa products being available for both the domestic and export markets.

"Our major competitor, the U.S.". says Mr. Boyce, "will probably match or exceed last year's output". Most areas in the United States indicate ample moisture reserves, which will aid yields, but the first cut will be later than usual because of cold, wet spring weather throughout the main producing states. Mr. Boyce says the fact that U.S. carryover supplies of processed alfalfa will be minimal should help to maintain currently favorable prices.

Barring any significant reduction in feed requirements by European, Japanese and other Pacific Rim feed manufacturers, Canadian exports should remain strong throughout the new crop year. Mr. Boyce reports that a decrease in the production of alfalfa and leaf meal pellets in New Zealand and China has limited the manufacturers' sources of forage supplies. However, the dominance of Japan in the international processed alfalfa trade makes price forecasting very difficult because the buying policies and strategies of countries like

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Processed Alfalfa Outlook (cont'd)

Japan have a significant effect on prices.

The Japanese requirements for alfalfa meal pellets of around 25,000 tonnes per month will absorb most of the exportable supplies in both Canada and the United States. And less competition for that market by other countries should ensure stable and relatively favorable prices for Canadian and American processed alfalfa products in the 1983-84 crop year.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW LOCATION FOR FARM SAFETY PROGRAM

The Farm Safety Program, which was previously administered by both Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Workers Health, Safety and Compensation, is now under the sole jurisdiction of Alberta Agriculture and is located at 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. The new telephone number is 427-2186.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REDUCING PASTURE BLOAT

Pasture bloat is responsible for losses to Canada's livestock industry of from $10 to $11 million each year.

And, according to Dale Engstrom, ruminant nutritionist with Alberta Agriculture, a survey conducted by the department some years ago showed that bloat occurred on 40 per cent of livestock farms in the province, and that 84 per cent of the cases occurred on legume pastures. He says this type of bloat is most frequently seen in the spring and early summer when pastures are lush and growing rapidly and when legumes make up 50 per cent or more of the total forage. He adds that bloat has also been observed in cattle grazing on wheat pastures.

Research has shown that a number of chemical compounds are released from plant cells during normal digestion in the rumen (only animals which have a rumen are subject to bloating). And among them are some foam-forming compounds which have the ability to trap the gases that are released during the digestive process. Since the foam cannot escape from the rumen, the internal pressure builds up to the point where it can cause respiratory failure and death.

However, the presence of foam-forming compounds does not always cause bloat. Mr. Engstrom says that tannins and lipids, which are present in such non-bloat-causing legumes as sainfoin, inhibit the production of foam as does mucin, which is present in an animal's saliva.

Why is it that young, lush legume plants often cause bloat when the same plants in a mature stage of growth are safe to graze? The answer is that as the plants mature, their protein content is reduced and their lignin (indigestible carbohydrates) content is increased. A reduction in protein means a reduction in the foam-causing agents and an increase in lignin means a decrease in the rate of cell wall breakdown. And lignin stimulates an animal's saliva

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production, which also helps to reduce bloating. Then, because mature forage is less digestible than immature forage, it produces less gas. Ironically though, the very factors that create the bloat hazard also make legumes such a nutritious feed.

What can be done to prevent pasture bloat?

Mr. Engstrom says the following pasture management practices will help to prevent it.

- Be careful of "high-risk pastures that:

  contain more than 50 per cent legume

  have been recently touched by frost

  are wet from either rain or dew

  are in the lush, pre-bloom stage of growth.

- Do not turn hungry animals on to a "high-risk" pasture
- Use strip or rotational grazing to avoid the selective grazing of legumes in a mixed stand. Sheep, which can be more selective than cattle, can be so choosy that they will eat the leaves of the plants they are grazing and leave the stems. One way to prevent selective grazing is to feed freshly chopped forage in a dry lot.
- Feed dry forage at the same time that the animals are being grazed or each day before they are turned on to the pasture. Such an approach could be useful for sheep and dairy cattle that are confined at night.
- See that the animals have continuous access to salt, minerals and water.

Mr. Engstrom says the following animal management procedures have been reasonably effective in preventing bloat.

Reducing Pasture Bloat (cont'd)

The first is to start feeding Bloat Guard in the grain two weeks before there is likely to be a bloat hazard. It should be mixed with the grain and fed at the rate of 4 to 8 g per 100 kg of bodyweight per day. Since it will only protect the animals against bloat for about 12 hours, it is better to feed the Bloat Guard in two feedings. Mixing Bloat Guard with salt or water is not as effective as feeding it with grain because a regular intake on the part of the animals is not assured.

An alternative to the use of Bloat Guard is to feed a non-toxic vegetable or mineral oil at the rate of 25 to 50 mL per 100 kg of bodyweight per day. This can be done by orally dosing the animals twice a day or by adding a sufficient amount of it to their drinking water to make a 2 per cent solution.

Still another alternative is to mix a laundry detergent, preferably Tide, with grain at the rate of 4 to 8 g per head per day for cattle and at the rate of one to 2 g per head per day for sheep.

Of the three alternatives listed above, Mr. Engstrom says Bloat Guard is the most reliable.

Because a case of bloat requires immediate treatment, the supervision should be increased of livestock that are in a pasture that could cause bloat.

Mr. Engstrom says the unpredictability of bloat makes it difficult to recommend management practices that will consistently prevent it, and even though the practices recommended above can reduce the risk of bloat, its total elimination in a legume pasture is very unlikely. He suggests that both cattle and sheepmen consult their veterinarian regarding the diagnosis and emergency treatment of bloat before it occurs.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NO CHALKBROOD IN LEAFCUTTING BEE COCOONS

There is no chalkbrood in Western Canada's leafcutting bee cocoons, according to a survey carried out by Agriculture Canada's research station at Beaverlodge.

A total of 119 cocoon samples were collected in the survey which was carried out in all the Western Provinces by Dr. Daphne Fairey, Don Nelson and John Lieverse. The cocoons were screened for chalkbrood at the Biosystematic Research Institute in Ottawa, Ontario.

Dr. Fairey reports that an analysis of the cocoons indicated that there was a high correlation between the presence of mold and a chalkbrood-like fungi. And she says that the practice presently being followed by most leafcutting bee producers of discarding moldy cells appears to be a useful preventative measure and should be continued.

She also says that there is no effective control for chalkbrood in leafcutting bees, and that it is prevalent in most of the seed growing areas of the western United States where it results in heavy bee losses. The U.S. is one of Canada's largest buyers of leafcutting bee cocoons and the incidence and consequent spread of chalkbrood poses a threat to our domestic and international markets for both alfalfa seed and leafcutting bee cocoons.

Further information can be obtained from district agriculturists, leafcutting bee associations and the Alfalfa Seed Producers' Association.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEST RESULTS OF SPRAYER MONITOR AND CONTROLLER MODELS

The test results for one sprayer monitor model and two sprayer monitor and control models that have been tested by the Agricultural Machinery Institute in Lethbridge (PAMI) show that all three improve spraying performance, but that each has its strong and weak points.

The BEE Model 7603 sprayer monitor is the simplest and least expensive of the three. It simply provides the operator with a digital readout of the application rate, which according to PAMI's engineering technologist, Brian Storozynsky, is really all he needs. With this information he can manually adjust his spraying pressure or forward speed to maintain a constant application rate.

The Raven SCS 400 model shows the application rate like the BEE model and has the added convenience of being able to automatically control and maintain a chosen application rate. However, according to Mr. Storozynsky, this automatic feature is considered to be of less importance than a simple monitor because of the narrow range of forward speeds over which the spraying rate can be effectively controlled automatically and because of the large and rapid pressure changes that occur over this narrow range of forward speeds.

The SED model, like the Raven, can program the sprayer application rate into the console and automatically control it. However, it provides such additional information as the forward speed, the total area sprayed, the working rate and the total fluid pumped. Since it is made up of three separate consoles, it can be used as a simple monitor like the BEE model or it can be programmed to perform as an automatic control system like the Raven.

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Test Results Of Sprayer Monitor And Controller Models (cont'd)

"When choosing between the three models, a farmer would have to decide if the convenience of a controller compared with a monitor is worth the extra cost," Mr. Storozynsky says.

Ed Wiens, who is the manager and senior engineer at the Lethbridge testing station, points out that no monitor or controller will do a good job of spraying unless the operator uses the right nozzles for the chemical being applied and unless he operates them at the right pressure and at the right forward speed.

Complete reports on the monitor and controller models described above can be obtained in Alberta from PAMI, c/o LCC Campus, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1K 1L6 (Telephone: 329-1212).

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June 6, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE USE OF INSECTICIDE EARTAGS AND GROWTH IMPLANTS RECOMMENDED

Cattle producers grazing yearlings or cows and calves on pasture this summer should consider using insecticide-impregnated eartags and growth implants to improve their gains and net returns.

This advice comes from Dwight Karren, coordinator of Alberta Agriculture's Preconditioned Feeder Program. He reports that preliminary results from a recently completed Farming For the Future on-farm demonstration trial, carried out on the farm of Dave Carlyle at Blackfalds, indicate that Bovaid eartags improved gains in yearling steers by 10.6 per cent and net returns by $13.55 per steer. Calf gains were improved by 17.3 per cent and net returns by $50.44 per calf.

Mr. Karren says the same trial also indicated that yearling steers implanted once at the beginning of the grazing period gained faster than yearlings not implanted. The Synovax-S implants increased gains by 15.1 per cent and net returns by $21.80, while the Ralgro implants increased gains by 10.1 per cent and net returns by $13.70.

A recently published summary of the use of implants on Alberta calves indicates that cattlemen can expect calf gains to increase by approximately 5 per cent if they use Ralgro implants. And, depending upon calf gains, calf prices and the actual magnitude of improvement in calf gains, net returns can be increased by approximately $10 per calf.

Hence, it would appear that cattle producers could improve their net returns by as much as $30-$60 per calf or yearling if they used insecticide-impregnated eartags and growth implants.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ADDITION OF OIL CONCENTRATE RECOMMENDED FOR BASAGRAN

BASF, the manufacturer of Basagran, is recommending that Assist Oil Concentrate be added to Basagran at the rate of one per cent of the total spray volume (1 L per 100 L of spray solution).

Basagran is registered for use on lima beans, dry and snap beans, field and sweet corn, peas, fababeans, soybeans and flax. And Assist is a product that contains 83 per cent mineral oil and 17 per cent of a surfactant blend. It is the latter component that enables the oil to mix with the water.

Rudy Esau, weed control specialist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks, says that according to BASF, Assist acts as a spreader and sticker. It also increases Basagran's rate of penetration by helping to dissolve the waxy cuticle layer on the leaves. And it reduces the evaporation rate of the spray solution, thereby increasing the absorption period.

However, at high temperatures (28° C+) and high levels of humidity (80%+), the potential for crop injury increases. Under such conditions, BASF recommends that a rate of 0.5 per cent of Assist per 100 L of spray solution be used.

Mr. Esau points out that Basagran should not be applied to peas that are in the cotyledon stage. It should only be used when they are in the three-node stage or when they have three pairs of leaves. And Assist should not be used on peas. However, Citowett Plus, which performs essentially the same functions, can be used in conjunction with Basagran on peas.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROVINCIAL WINNERS OF WORLD FOOD DAY ESSAY COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

Myrna Brown of Grande Prairie and Lori Niedemeier of Calgary are the provincial winners of the English and French sections respectively of the World Food Day Essay Competition.

Ms. Brown attends the Grande Prairie Composite High School and Mlle Niedermeier attends Bishop Grandin High School in Calgary. Their essays were entitled "My Solution to World Hunger".

Ms. Brown points out in her essay that there are no simple solutions to the world food problem, and that we must give up looking for them. Instead, she says we must use the solutions that are available and try to maximize their advantages, while minimizing the difficulties. She suggests doing this through communication and the cooperation of everyone concerned. She also points out that an understanding of the individual needs of each country is essential if a solution to the problem is to be accomplished. In other words, the solution must be custom made to fit the idiosyncrasies of the culture involved. She ends her essay by saying that the world food problem will not go away. It must be tackled if the economic health of the world is to improve.

Mlle Niedermeier notes three key requirements for solving the world food problem. She says a well defined national purpose and supportive structures are necessary to satisfy people's needs plus the wise and proper use of natural resources. And people need education and the opportunity for training if they are to be able to participate in and contribute to the resolution of this problem.

Ms. Brown and Mlle Niedermeier will each receive $200 and their essays will automatically be entered in the national competition, which will be judged on October 16, 1983.

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Provincial Winners Of World Food Day Essay Competition Announced (cont'd)

Should they win the national grand prize they would receive an additional $500 each and an opportunity to visit Canadian institutions that are involved in helping solve the world food problem.

Members of both the provincial and national judging panels were chosen from among representatives of educational institutions, governments, the news media and private and voluntary organizations. The provincial essays were judged on the basis of originality, knowledge of the subject being discussed, clarity of expression and grammatical accuracy. The same criteria apply to the national competition.

The contest was open to all high schools across Canada, but not more than 20 essays were to be submitted by any one school. The essays could be in either English or French and they were not to exceed 1,000 words.

The World Food Day Essay Competition grew out of World Food Day, which was initiated in October of 1981 and is held on that date each year by the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization. It is intended to stimulate informed public debate on world hunger, especially among the world's youth.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SILO GAS

"DANGER — SILO GAS"! This warning sign should be posted in an obvious place on all silos to make sure that accidents like the one that occurred in Ontario a few years ago do not happen again.

In that accident three people died as a result of not having taken the proper precautions against the deadly silo gas, nitrogen dioxide. The tragedy started when the farmer's son decided to enter the silo to level the silage and to adjust the distributor. Later one of the hired men discovered that he was missing and saw him lying at the bottom of the silage slope. He jumped in and was later found by the farmer lying half way down the slope. A second son then entered the silo by kicking in two of the doors. After unsuccessfully trying to drag out the hired man and his brother, he too collapsed. The bodies of the three victims were finally removed from the silo by a fire rescue squad.

According to Dennis Darby, farm structures engineer with Alberta Agriculture, many silo manufacturers provide warning signs, some of which contain operating instructions which warn of gas and the injury hazards that are specific to their particular brand of silo.

Farmers who use a silo should also:

- Check with their local fire department or similar emergency service to find out whether it has the pressure-demanding remote breathing apparatus that would be required in an emergency. Diving gear (scuba) is not suitable because the back-pack air tank is too big to go through the silo chute or the outside ladder-cage.
- Ventilate the feed room in case silo gas spills out of the silo doors or is blown out by the silo unloader.

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Silo Gas (cont'd)

- Avoid going into the silo during the filling operations to level the silage. Adjust the silage distributor from the top of the silo to keep the silage level during filling.
- Enter the silo as soon as the last load has been put in and leave the blower running if it is absolutely necessary to enter. Never wait until the next day to do this. When opening a chute door do so from above the chute rather than below in case silo gas comes out of the opening.
- Check the depth of settled silage before entering a previously-filled silo. And attach a tube adaptor to the pipe on the forage blower to make sure that the air blast is reaching all the way down to the silage. Leave the chute doors closed and ventilate the silo by running the forage blower for about 30 minutes in silos that have a diameter of up to 7.2 m. Larger silos may require more ventilating time. And always keep the blower running while you are in the silo.

Once operating, a silo unloader can ventilate a conventional silo quite effectively but if the silo unloader fails in a recently filled silo, it must be assumed that some gas may have accumulated, and the silo should be reventilated with the forage blower and a tube adapter.

- Start the forage blower and ventilate the silo if somebody collapses inside. A supply of fresh air is the most immediate positive step that can be taken from the points of view of both the victim and the rescuer.
- Always use an external supply of air if it is necessary to enter an oxygen-limiting silo. Such equipment consists of a supply hose that is long enough to reach into the silo, a pressure-demand type of supply regulator and a full-face mask.

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Silo Gas (cont'd)

In the past, safety harnesses or a loop of rope under the armpits leading to a helper standing at the top of the silo have been recommended as a safety precaution. However, it is no longer felt that these precautions are satisfactory because one person could never pull a victim up a silo wall.

Additional information on silos and silage gases (silo gas properties, detecting silo gases and ventilating silos and feed rooms) is contained in a federal publication entitled "Silo Gas" (M-7410). It can be obtained from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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June 6, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EUROPEAN CORN BORER SURVEY RESULTS

A recent survey carried out by staff from the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks and by staff from the federal research station at Lethbridge revealed an 85 per cent survival rate of European corn borer larvae in fields south of Medicine Hat where corn stalks were still standing.

According to the entomologist at the horticultural research center, Dr. Ulf Soehngen, no corn borer larvae were found in fields in the same area that had been disced in two directions. He says it appears from these results that simply cutting the corn stalks into small pieces is almost as effective in destroying the larvae as burying the stalks.

He urges those farmers in the main corn growing areas of the province who still have corn stalks standing to disc their corn fields in at least two directions immediately, so that the larvae are destroyed before they emerge as moths and start flying and reproducing in mid-July.

And to enable the researchers to monitor the presence of corn borers during the summer and to advise corn growers on recommended control procedures, he is asking those who grow corn in and around the Medicine Hat area to register the locations of their fields or garden plots with Medicine Hat's district agriculturist, Stan Dereniwski. His telephone number is 529-3636.

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June 6, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA 4-H PARTICIPATES IN UNIVERSIADE '83

Eighty-six Alberta 4-H members, adult volunteer leaders and members of the alumni association will be carrying the signs that identify each participating country during the opening ceremony of Universiade '83 on July 1, and they will be carrying the flags of each country in the closing ceremony on July 11.

The co-ordinator of the group, Mahlon Weir, who is a provincial 4-H officer in Edmonton, says when he first communicated his idea in late January to those involved with 4-H, he received more than 230 applications from across the province. Selections were made on the basis of regional representation (there are seven 4-H regions) as well as on the basis of obtaining a good "mix" of club members, adult volunteer leaders and alumni members. However, most of those who will be taking part in Universiade '83 will be 4-H members.

Mr. Weir points out that all the 4-H'ers will be participating at their own expense. "Some", he says, "will be staying at motels, others will be staying with relatives, still others will be camping out and some will be commuting to Edmonton each day".

"However, whatever their accomodation, the experience will be well worth it. In fact, the opportunity to take part in an event that will be attended by an audience of about 64,000 , will involve 4,500 athletes from about 86 countries and that will be viewed around the world is certainly a once in a lifetime experience for most people".

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June 6, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRADE DIRECTOR APPOINTED

David J. Clarke, Alberta Agriculture's senior international trade director — overseas, has announced the appointment of William D. Anderson to the position of trade director -- Asia.

As trade director — Asia, Mr. Anderson will be responsible for market development's programs in China; ASEAN, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. He will be particularly concerned with increasing exports of agricultural commodities, processed food products and technical services to that area.

Mr. Anderson was born and educated in Manitoba and obtained his B.S.A. in 1969 from the University of Manitoba. He has worked for the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation; the Grain Marketing Office, the federal Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce in Ottawa; the Asian Development Bank in the Philippines and as project leader for the Agro-Dev. Livestock and Pasture Project in China, which included residency in Beijing for six months. He comes to Alberta Agriculture from Deloitte, Haskins and Sells Associates, agricultural economists and management consultants.

Mr. Anderson's experience in both the agricultural sector and in Asia provides him with the broad exposure and the indepth knowledge that is required to assist Alberta agriculture and food exporters in developing markets in that area.

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June 6, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUPERVISOR OF SEED TECHNOLOGY APPOINTED

R.W. Nelson, Alberta Agriculture's head of the cereals and oilseed section has announced the appointment of Bill Witbeck to the position of supervisor of seed technology.

In his new position, Mr. Witbeck will be responsible for providing professional agronomic advice and direction on seed technology to seed growers, commercial producers and the seed trade. He will also develop and supervise seed crop policies and programs with regard to stock seed and the Forage Seed Project. And he will maintain a liaison with the seed trade, SeCan, the Canadian Seed Growers' Association and the seed cleaning plants.

As supervisor of seed technology, Mr. Witbeck will also be responsible for providing advice to farmers, the seed industry and Alberta Agriculture staff on issues that pertain to seed production.

He was born in Raymond, Alberta, and took his elementary and high school in Raymond. He obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) from Oregon State University, having majored in plant science.

Mr. Witbeck has worked as a technician at the University of Alberta in the Plant Science Department and has held a similar position with the Field Crops Research Program. He accepted the position of cereals technician with Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch in 1978. He held that position at the time of his present appointment.

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AGRI-NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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June 13, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE REAL ESTATE SITUATION

There was a modest 3.2 per cent increase in the average value of agricultural real estate in Alberta during the first quarter of this year compared with the last quarter of 1982.

According to the Canada Land Inventory, classes 1 (no significant limitation for crop use), 3 (moderately severe limitations), 4 (severe limitations) and 6 (improvements not feasible but natural grazing potential exists) increased slightly in value, while classes 2 (moderate limitations for crop use) and 5 (unsuitable for annual cultivation - perennial forages possible) and other land decreased.

Peter Woloshyn, a resource economist with Alberta Agriculture's resource economics branch, points out that even though average agricultural real estate values in the province usually decrease between the fourth quarter of one and the first quarter of the following year, the slight increase in 1983 first quarter is not enough to establish a clear trend. In fact, he feels that the 3.2 per cent increase is more encouraging than significant.

He reports that only one class of agricultural real estate increased in value during the first quarter of this year compared with the first quarter of 1982. It was class 5 land, and it rose in value by 2.3 per cent. All the other classes decreased, with the largest decrease being recorded for class 6 agricultural land. Its value dropped by 9.3 per cent. Although average values did increase slightly in the first quarter of 1983 compared with the fourth quarter of 1982, when the first quarter of 1983 is compared with the first quarter of 1982, the overall result is a decrease of 3.3 per cent.

According to Mr. Woloshyn, the acreage transferred during the first quarter of this year increased by 34.4 per cent compared with the fourth quarter of 1982. He says the volume of agricultural real estate that is transferred normally drops off in the last quarter of

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Alberta Agriculture Real Estate Situation (cont'd)

a year and then picks up again in the first quarter of the following year. He reports that the average increase in the number of acres transferred from the fourth quarter of one year to the first quarter of the next year between 1974 and 1982 was 15.9 per cent, which is about half the increase that has been recorded between the last quarter of 1982 and the first quarter of 1983.

The increase in acreage transferred in the first quarter of 1982 and the first quarter of 1983 was only 2.3 per cent. And the fact that there was a slight increase is not too surprising in view of the fact that, when comparing first quarters, the lowest acreage transferred since 1974 took place in the first quarter of 1982. Mr. Woloshyn says class 1 land transfers increased by 33.3 per cent, (27,800 acres) in the first quarter of 1983 compared with 20,900 acres in the first quarter of 1982. However, both class 5 and class 6 land transfers decreased by just over 18 per cent. The actual number of acres of class 5 land that changed hands was 53,567 compared with 65,450 in 1982, and the actual number of acres of class 6 land that changed hands was 29,700 compared with 36,300 in 1982.

Further information on the Alberta agricultural real estate situation can be obtained from Peter Woloshyn, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 (Telephone: 427-4026).

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June 13, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PESTICIDE RESIDUES FOUND TO BE NEGLIGIBLE IN FOOD PRODUCTS

Pesticide residues were negligible in random sampled food products in Alberta, according to R.G. Christian, director of Alberta Agriculture's animal health division and chairman of the Safe Food Committee.

Of the 109 beef and pork fat samples, the 18 export honey samples, the 249 dairy products, the 23 dozen eggs and the six vegetable samples that were analysed at Alberta Agriculture's food laboratory, only one pork fat sample had a hexachlorobenzene residue that was slightly over the allowable level of 0.1 part per million. To get an idea of how big 0.1 part per million is, a person might think in terms of it being equal to one second out of 105 days.

The Safe Food Committee, which has representatives from Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Environment, Agriculture Canada's plant products division and Health and Welfare Canada's health protection branch, realize that the number of samples that were analysed is small compared with the total food supply in the province. But, the cost of testing is considerable and the resources are not available to do a larger number of random samples. Also, random sample testing is carried out by federal government agencies across Canada. And the Safe Food Committee is encouraged by the continued improvement in food quality that is indicated by these random sampling programs.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ALBERTA CERTIFIED PRECONDITIONED FEEDER PROGRAM

A considerable increase in interest in this year's Alberta Certified Preconditioned Feeder Program (ACPF) is expected in view of the success of the 1982 program.

Dwight Karren, coordinator of ACPF, reports that 16,256 calves were certified under last year's program and that 8,154 of them were sold through 14 monitored sales in nine different locations. These figures compare with 7,113 certified calves of which 5,095 were sold in 1981 at seven monitored sales in four locations.

He says that when 1982 average prices at the certified sales were compared with those at the regular sales in the same locations and during the same periods, it was found that the certified steers averaged $5.56 per hundredweight more than the steers that were sold at the regular sales. Heifers averaged $5.74 per hundredweight more, preimmunized steers averaged $3.61 more and preimmunized heifers averaged $1.87 more.

And when a number of preconditioned calf producers were surveyed they reported net returns that ranged from $13.45 per calf all the way to $80.52 per calf. According to Mr. Karren, the large discrepancy in net returns was due to differences in both costs of production and performance.

An analysis of data obtained from a survey of some of the certified calf buyers showed that only 7.3 per cent of the 41.8 per cent of calves on which data had been collected had to be treated for illness. Twice this number of calves sold through the regular sales had to be treated for illness, and just over 11 per cent of the preimmunized calves had to be treated. Death losses for the preconditioned, the preimmunized and the regular calves were 0.5, 1.8 and 2 per cent respectively. Mr. Karren says these figures support the data that was collected on the 1980 and 1981 programs.

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The Alberta Certified Preconditioned Feeder Program (cont'd)

He advises anyone who plans to participate in this year's ACPF program to contact his local veterinarian and auction market operator as soon as possible. The dates and locations of the 1983 certified sales can be obtained from district agriculturists or from Dwight Karren, Coordinator, ACPF Program, 4920 - 51 Street, Red Deer, Alberta, T4V 6K8 (Telephone: 343-5336).

Cattlemen who would like more details on last year's program will find them in the Alberta Certified Preconditioned Feeder Program — 1983 Annual Report (Agdex 420/662-2). It is available from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLACKLEG IN CATTLE

Have you vaccinated your calves against blackleg? This disease was recently diagnosed by Alberta Agriculture's diagnostic laboratory in Edmonton in a 13-month old steer, a 10-month old steer and a yearling bull.

According to the director of the department's animal health division, Dr. R.G. Christian, the main method of controlling blackleg is to build up resistance in the cattle by vaccinating them with a bacterin or vaccine because it is practically impossible to prevent them from coming in contact with the disease.

He recommends vaccinating all calves between the ages of one month and three months with what is called a mixed bacterin. This bacterin is recommended because it will protect the cattle against both blackleg and malignant edema. Malignant edema is similar to blackleg and is often present in an outbreak of the latter.

Calves should be given a second vaccination when they are six months old, Dr. Christian says. If the disease has previously occurred on the premises, he recommends vaccinating cattle that are three years old or less every year.

In the event of an outbreak of blackleg, he advises vaccinating or revaccinating all the animals in the herd. And, since there is a period of about two weeks following vaccination when they may have little or no resistance to the disease, it is often advisable to move the herd, after they have been vaccinated, on to another pasture.

The manufacturers' directions regarding the handling and storage of the blackleg and malignant edema bacterins should be rigidly followed because it can deteriorate rapidly under unfavorable conditions. And any bacterin that is left over after the cattle have been vaccinated should be discarded.

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Blackleg In Cattle (cont'd)

Information on the symptoms of blackleg in cattle, its diagnosis and treatment is contained in a publication entitled "Blackleg and Allied Diseases". This publication also contains information on redwater disease in cattle as well as information on blackleg, malignant edema, enterotoxemia and black disease in sheep.

"Blackleg and Allied Diseases (Agdex 400/663-1) can be obtained from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHECK SECOND-HAND FARM EQUIPMENT FOR RATS!

Alberta farmers who buy second-hand equipment at an auction are being asked to check it for Norway rats before removing it from the premises, if it may contain feed residues.

Alberta Agriculture's animal pest control specialist, Cliff Barrett, reports that a number of rats were destroyed recently in a combine at an auction mart near Gibbons. The combine was one of several that had been brought in from Saskatchewan and other out-of-province locations.

He says that Norway rats have come into the province periodically in the past in agricultural machinery. One, for example, came in a food processing machine from the United States, another came in a feed processing machine from Saskatchewan and still another came in a combine that was delivered to a farmer in the Beaverlodge area.

However, Mr. Barrett is particularly concerned this year bacause he foresees an increase in the number of second-hand machines that are brought into Alberta in response to an increasing demand. He says many farmers who normally buy new machinery will be buying second-hand machinery this year because of the poor state of the economy.

Hence, he urges farmers to check auction-bought equipment that may contain feed residues very carefully for such things as rat droppings. He also recommends watching the reaction of the family dog around such equipment to see if it seems to sense anything unusual.

Anyone who suspects that a rat or rats may be present should be careful not to disturb them until the equipment has been examined by a municipal pest control officer or agricultural fieldman or a district agriculturist.

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June 13, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHECK FOR GRASSHOPPERS NOW

Farmers who have a grasshopper problem should use Furadan, Sevin XLR or dimethoate, all of which are available from agricultural chemical supply dealers. They can also use Guthion or malathion.

According to Hugh Philip, head of the Alberta Environmental Centre's crop protection group in Vegreville, Alberta Agriculture does not have a supply of insecticides for controlling grasshoppers or any other field crops insects this year. However, he advises anyone who is unable to get a grasshopper control product, because of a shortage in his area, to contact his district agriculturist.

As daytime temperatures increase throughout the province, grasshoppers will become more and more active, and, if conditions remain dry, they will be moving from pastures, roadsides and fencelines into crops. In fact, they could be in the crops by mid-June.

Since the best and cheapest time to control these insects is while they are still in their hatching areas, farmers should be checking all uncultivated areas that are adjacent to crops, especially if the areas face south and/or the soil is light.

Pastures that are found to be heavily infested may have to be sprayed. And if the grasshoppers have already started moving from them into crops, spraying roadsides and the outer edges of the crops which are being invaded will reduce crop damage and the amount of insecticide that will be needed to bring the situation under control.

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Check For Grasshoppers Now (cont'd)

Mr. Philip points out that the necessity for controlling grasshoppers often depends upon weather conditions. Under favorable crop growing conditions, for example, a fairly heavy infestation may not cause extensive damage, while, under hot, dry conditions, even a low grasshopper population may cause severe damage. As a general rule, a crop should be sprayed when the grasshopper population exceeds 7 to 12 per m^2.

Further information on grasshoppers and their control is contained in the publication, "Control of Grasshoppers in Alberta – 1983" (Agdex 622-4). It can be obtained from district agriculturists or the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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June 13, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RED-BACKED CUTWORMS

The Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville has received numerous reports of red-backed cutworms causing problems in home gardens, which means that they will also be active in many cereal and rapeseed crops.

Hugh Philip, who is head of the centre's crop protection group, advises farmers to check for expanding dark patches in their crops, especially when the dark areas are on knolls or ridges or in crops that are growing in sandy soils.

If some of the plants have been cut off at ground level, he advises digging an inch below the soil surface in the row to confirm that the damage is being caused by cutworms. Under present dry conditions, chemical control is warranted if there is more than one cutworm per square foot, he says. And he recommends using Lorsban or Ambush. However, only those areas of the field that are suffering damage need to be sprayed; not the whole crop. Since cutworms feed only at night, the spraying should be done in the evening.

Information on application rates, etc. is contained in a publication entitled "Chemical Control of Field Crop Insects – 1983" (Agdex 100/622). It can be obtained from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTROLLING CUTWORMS IN THE HOME GARDEN

Red-backed cutworms appear to be causing problems in many home gardens this year.

Marilyn Steiner, entomologist at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, believes that they are particularly prevalent this season because soil conditions both last winter and this spring have been relatively dry. In cool, damp soil, the larvae are inclined to become diseased which cuts down on their numbers.

Most common species of cutworms overwinter as eggs in the soil and hatch in the early spring. They continue feeding until late June when they pupate in the soil and emerge in July or August as cutworm moths or "millers". It is at this time that they lay their eggs.

According to Ms. Steiner; cutworms, which are about half an inch long, and which curl up into the shape of a "C", feed below the soil surface at night. They can destroy almost any seedlings by cutting them off at or just below the soil surface. And they are particularly fond of leafy vegetables like lettuce, cabbage and cauliflower. The worms may either chew around the edges of the lower leaves, cut the plants off at ground level or do both.

In a small home garden, Ms. Steiner recommends digging an inch or so below the soil surface in a row where cutworm damage is evident and removing the worms. She says cutworms usually work their way along a row, cutting off the plants as they go.

An alternative method of dealing with cutworms is to put a physical barrier, like a milk carton, around transplants. The barrier should be pushed a couple of inches into the soil, and it should be left there until the plants become well established or until about the end of June.

In cases where the cutworm infestation is severe, Mr. Steiner says it may be necessary to use a 5 per cent granular formulation of Diazinon. When sprinkled along the rows, it will protect the young plants for about two weeks.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISPOSING OF PESTICIDE CONTAINERS

Getting rid of pesticide containers can be a problem. What do you do with yours?

According to Alberta Agricultre's pesticide issues coordinator, Dr. Moe Hussain, there are about 53 permanent pesticide container disposal sites in the province and quite a number of temporary ones. He says anybody who does not know where they are should contact his agricultural fieldman or district agriculturist.

Dr. Hussain also says that all pesticide containers should be rinsed out three times with clean water as soon as they have been emptied and that the rinse water should be emptied into the sprayer tank. After that the containers can be disposed of.

The metal containers that are taken to a disposal site will be collected later in the season and crushed for recycling. The plastic containers will be collected and shredded. At the present time the shredded material is being stored until new technology makes it possible to use it for another purpose. Plastic fence posts is one of the uses that is being considered.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A POISONOUS PLANT

Did you know that western water hemlock is one of the main causes of livestock poisonings in central Alberta?

The plant grows in wet places such as around sloughs and on the banks of streams and occurs throughout most of the province. It is a perennial member of the carrot family, grows 60 - 180 cm tall, is pale green and has a stout smooth, hollow stem, which often has purplish spots on it. The leaves are generally doubly compounded and grow one per node at alternate intervals along the stem. Each leaf consists of three to nine leaflets that have saw-toothed edges.

The base of the stem of western water hemlock is generally somewhat enlarged and characterized by hollow chambers divided by horizontal cross portions. The short, tuberous roots exude a yellowish, aromatic, extremely poisonous oil. Although most of the oil is concentrated here, enough is present in the young shoots to cause trouble, and the tubers are more likely to be pulled out and eaten when the ground is soft. Both the roots and the shoots are dangerous at any time of the year, but particularly so in the spring and fall.

The flowers of western water hemlock are small and white and form an umbrella-like head. The seeds are oval and yellow with dark brown ribs. In fact, they resemble dill or caraway seeds. Although the western water hemlock plant blooms in June and July, the seeds do not mature until late in the season.

Early symptoms of western water hemlock poisoning in cattle are frothing at the mouth, uneasiness, pain and then violent convulsions which cause the animal to kick, bellow and groan. However, the poison produces such a rapid death that these symptoms are rarely observed. Treatment is not usually possible.

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A Poisonous Plant (cont'd)

Since this plant is most frequently found in very wet areas, leveling the ground, improving its drainage and/or relining ditches should help to solve the problem. Any roots brought to the surface during such work should be removed before livestock have a chance to eat them. Other methods of controlling western water hemlock include hand-grubbing when the plants are scattered and cultivation. But care must be taken to remove all the roots from the soil because even a small piece can sprout a new plant. A large infestation of western water hemlock should be plowed and harrowed several times with a spring-toothed harrow to draw all the roots to the surface. They should then be collected in a bag, dried and burned.

Peter Funk, district agriculturist at Red Deer, recommends that you consult your local district agriculturist for details on the chemical control of western water hemlock. And remember that a herbicide may actually increase the palatability of these plants, which means that an area that has been sprayed should not be grazed for about a week.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARKET GARDEN OUTLETS IN ALBERTA INCREASING

Are you one of the growing number of Albertans that are purchasing their garden produce directly from a market garden? And do you have a copy of the brochure called "Alberta Market Gardeners"?

Lloyd Hausher, market garden specialist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, says many consumers in Alberta have been quick to take advantage of the superb quality and freshness of fruit and vegetables that are purchased directly from the producer. He adds that, in most cases, the produce has been picked only a few hours before it is offered for sale, and that many market gardeners allow consumers to pick their own produce. This means that they often get absolutely fresh fruit or vegetables at a discount.

Mr. Hausher reports that the acreage in Alberta that is being devoted to market garden crops is increasing every year, and that there are now about 300 of these outlets located throughout the province. It is estimated that market garden crops account for approximately 650 hectares this year, and the vegetables grown range from cauliflowers, peas, and sweet corn to eggplants.

"Alberta Market Gardeners" lists the names and telephone number of most of the market gardeners in the province and contains information on the months and days that the gardens are open. It also tells the methods of sale that are employed, lists a few of the main crops that are grown and gives directions on how to reach the farms.

"Alberta Market Gardeners" (Agdex 202/845) can be obtained from district agriculturists, travel centers, the Alberta Horticultural Research Center, or the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGIONAL MANAGER FOR RED DEER APPOINTED BY ADC

Bob Thompson, general manager of lending with the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) has announced the appointment of Kenneth G. Friesen to the position of regional manager for the Red Deer region.

Mr. Thomas was born and raised on the family farm near Altona, southern Manitoba. He graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1970 with a B.S.A., having majored in economics and soils.

He was employed by the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation, as a credit agent, from 1970 to 1973. He joined ADC in the fall of 1973 as a loan review officer. And in 1977 he was promoted to assistant manager of farm lending in ADC's Camrose head office.

Mr. Thomas' hobbies are golfing, fishing and cross country skiing. He and his wife, Darlene, plan to move to Red Deer.

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June 20, 1983

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CHANGES TO LIME FREIGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Alberta's minister of agriculture, LeRoy Fjordbotten, has approved changes to the Agricultural Lime Freight Assistance (ALFA) Program, which helps farmers with the cost of transporting liming materials by covering 80 per cent of the cost that is incurred above $5.50 per tonne. The changes are designed to provide more equitable assistance to farmers who need lime to neutralize acid soil.

The head of the deparment's soils branch, Adolph Goettel, reports that the changes to the program involve a revision of the transportation assistance rate for marl; a revision of allowable freight charges; the inclusion of a farmer transportation rate; the inclusion of a minimum quality standard for liming materials and the implementation of a lime requirement test.

He says assistance provided for the transportation of marl will now be at the rate of 50 per cent of the highest commercial rate (11 ¢/tonne/km) to a maximum of 100 km. The change is intended to encourage the use of local supplies of marl.

At present commercial rates, this means that a farmer who took advantage of the program would receive 5.5 ¢ per cubic metre per km up to a maximum of $5.50 per cubic metre.

Mr. Goettel says marl is calcium carbonate that has been deposited by water, and that numerous deposits are to be found in western and north-central Alberta. Most is sold on a volume basis.

He also says the revised schedule regarding maximum allowable freight charges for commerical carriers has been implemented to encourage short hauls. For hauls up to 200 km, the rate will be 11 ¢ per tonne km., while the rate for hauls up to 400 km will be 9 ¢ per tonne km. The rate for hauls up to 600 km will be 7 ¢ per tonne km and the rate for hauls greater than 600 km will be 5¢ per tonne km.

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Changes To Lime Freight Assistance Program (cont'd)

According to Mr. Goettel, a farmer who transports his own lime will now be allowed assistance that is equivalent to 70 per cent of the commercial carrier rate. This change was made to more equitably compensate farmers who use their own vehicles.

Since some liming materials may be moved by railway to a processing plant or a stockpile and then transported to the farm by either a commercial or farm truck, the higher allowable freight rates will apply only to the distance between the plant or stockpile and the farm.

The ALFA program now requires that the effective neutralizing value (ENV) of ground limestone must be at least 70 per cent, and that marl must have at least an ENV of 60 per cent on a dry weight basis for the limestone to qualify. Mr. Goettel says farmers need to know the ENV of the material they are using to determine the application rate. More information on lime and marl quality is contained in a publication entitled "Liming Acid Soils" (Agdex 534-1), which is available from district agriculturists.

A copy of a lime requirement test report is now required to be submitted with an application for assistance under the ALFA Program. This test, which can be done by most soil testing laboratories, will determine how much lime is needed to bring the soil pH to a desirable level. Mr. Goettel says in most cases the amounts recommended are designed to bring it up to 6 and 6.5.

He believes that the changes that have been made to the ALFA Program should result in the development of an agricultural lime supply near areas that need it as well as an application and transportation service industry. At the present time ground limestone is available at Exshaw and Edmonton and a new development is underway at Rocky Mountain House. Another plant is processing agricultural limestone north of Prince George, B.C., and it will provide a source of lime for Alberta's Peace River region farmers.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FINAL YEAR FOR FARMING FOR THE FUTURE'S FIRST MANDATE

As the Alberta government's main agricultural research funding vehicle, Farming for the Future has awarded almost $25 million to 322 research projects in the province and in other parts of Western Canada since it was established in 1979. Its present mandate has one more year to go.

Supported by the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, Farming for the Future has two specific objectives: to improve the long-term viability of agriculture in Alberta and to help to improve the net income of Alberta farmers.

The projects range all the way from those that involve long-term and highly technical scientific research to those that involve shorter-term graduate student research, to producer-conducted demonstrations of the latest farming technology. The projects have resulted in innovative technology and new management practices that are now in everyday use in many sectors of the agricultural industry.

Farming for the Future has also created benefits in areas other than commercial farming. It has, for example, contributed to the training and employment of scientific manpower; it has encouraged dialogue between Alberta researchers and their colleagues in other parts of Canada; it has facilitated the prompt publication of research results and it has facilitated the upgrading of scientific equipment at both academic and government levels as well as having facilitated the transfer of new technology from researchers to farmers and others involved in the province's agricultural industry.

Forty-nine new research projects were approved for funding this year at a cost of $2.5 million. And 88 projects received renewal funding, making a total of 137 projects that

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Final Year For Farming For The Future's First Mandate (cont'd)

will be funded in 1983-84 for a total cost of slightly more than $7.1 million. Another 25 projects that are nearing completion did not require further funding.

Since September 1982, Farming for the Future has also funded 38 projects under the Graduate Student Research Support Program, which provides one-time grants of up to $10,000 to help eligible graduate students to cover their thesis research costs. Since its introduction in 1979, this program has provided more than $245,000 in aid to graduate students in the agricultural sciences.

In addition to the above, 85 projects have been approved since January 1982 under Farming for the Future's On-Farm Demonstration Program. It was developed to enable farmers and farm organizations to become actively involved in the transfer of new technology. As the leading member of a team made up of Alberta Agriculture's regional and district staff and experts in specific technological fields, each farmer who participates in the on-farm demonstrations helps to expedite the introduction of new research results.

On-Farm Demonstration projects are approved on a year-round basis and multi-year projects have to be renewed annually. Thirty-three new projects were approved between January and May of this year at a cost of $107,000 or just over $3,200 per project. And eight projects were renewed during the same period at a cost of $35,300.

Much of the research involving cereals, oilseeds and forages has concentrated on breeding, testing and managing crops that have been adapted to regional environmental conditions in Alberta. And the new varieties that are being tested have such superior characteristics as earlier maturity, higher yields and drought and disease resistance.

In livestock research, emphasis has been on breeding, reproduction, management, nutrition and disease resistance. One project has involved the testing of Vicogen, an anti-scour

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Final Year For Farming For The Future's First Mandate (cont'd)

vaccine that was developed by the Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Results show that the widespread use of this vaccine could substantially reduce the incidence of scours in newborn calves.

Other projects, related to the conservation and enhancement of the productivity of Alberta's farmland, range from soil fertility to tillage practices and from moisture conservation to erosion control. One of them involved assessing the factors that affect crop utilization of nitrogen in the soil, and recommendations have been prepared to help farmers preserve and improve the level of this important crop nutrient.

The Alberta Bee is the result of still another project that was carried out under Farming for the Future. Adapted to Alberta conditions, it is far more efficient than the strains that are currently in use. It is very docile, it has better foraging ability than the current strains, it has good resistance to disease and it has excellent overwintering characteristics.

In March of next year, Farming for the Future will have completed the fifth and final year of its present mandate. Its progress will be evaluated during the coming months and a decision will be made on its future by the committee of the Alberta Legislature, which is responsible for setting funding commitments from the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

Further information on Farming for the Future can be obtained from Dr. James Mahone, Director, Research Division, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 (Telephone: 422-1382).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES RECOMMENDED FOR RABIES

The director of Alberta Agriculture's animal health division, Dr.R.G. Christian, advises people who plan to travel with their pets in Alberta this summer to have them vaccinated against rabies. This is particularly important in the case of dogs and cats that will be going to southern Alberta.

Dr. Christian says that rabid skunks are still a problem south of Lethbridge to the American border. And he asks anyone who notices a skunk, or any other wild animal, that is acting in an abnormal manner to advise the local country or veterinary authorities of the fact. He also requests campers in that area to be careful that they or their pets do not come in contact with a rabid skunk. "All dogs and cats that are taken into the area or that are in the area should be vaccinated," he says, "and visiting dogs and cats should be kept on a leash.

Another area that has had a problem with rabid skunks during the past year is just west of Brooks. Even though the problem appears to have been eliminated, travellers and residents of the area should be on the lookout for animals that are acting abnormally. And people travelling or living in this area are also advised to have their dogs and cats vaccinated.

Even though the incidence of rabies in Alberta is much lower than it is in other provinces or in the United States, Dr. Christian says it is possible to find rabies in bats in most parts of the province. Hence, he advises people to avoid contact with bats, and he thinks it would be a good idea for all cats and dogs to be vaccinated against the disease because it is almost impossible to prevent them from coming in contact with bats.

The coordination of a cooperative inter-agency and inter-government effort to control rabies in skunks is being carried out by the Central Rabies Control Committee. It is made up of representatives from Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Alberta Social Services and Community Health, the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association and Agriculture Canada.

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June 20, 1983

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MANY SPRAYER GAUGES FOUND TO BE INACCURATE

At recent sprayer clinics conducted by Alberta Agriculture throughout the province, some of the gauges gave readings that were 63 kPa (9 psi) higher than the actual pressure, while others give readings that were 28 kPa (7 psi) lower than the actual pressure. And when 21 gauges that were all attached to the same source of pressure were tested only six gave the same reading.

According to Terry Footz, Alberta Agriculture's herbicide application equipment specialist, some of the gauges that were found to be inaccurate by as much as 35 kPa (5 psi) were brand new. Consequently, he urges farmers to check their gauges carefully, regardless of whether they are new or old.

He says a simple way of doing this would be to attach the sprayer gauge to an air hose that has a tire chuck on the end of it. Then inflate a tire to 250 kPa (about 35 psi), and make sure to check its pressure with a reliable tire gauge. Next compare the tire gauge reading with that of the sprayer gauge. If the two are the same, inflate the tire to 275 kPa (40 psi) and compare the readings again. If they are the same, you can assume that your sprayer gauge is accurate. If they are different, discard the sprayer gauge.

Mr. Footz says if the sprayer gauge is not registering zero before you put it on the sprayer, there is no point in testing it. Throw it away unless it is new. If it is new, exchange it for another one and hope for better luck!

"An accurate gauge", says Mr. Footz, "is a critical component of any sprayer. The operator must know that it is giving the correct reading if he is to apply the recommended amount of herbicide in a uniform pattern."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NITROGEN DEFICIENCY IN CEREAL CROPS

Every year there are cereal fields in Alberta that suffer from a nitrogen deficiency.

According to Dr. Ronald Howard, plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, this condition can be partially rectified by applying a nitrogen top dressing before the crop finishes tillering, providing that a sufficient amount of moisture is subsequently received to dissolve the fertilizer and to wash it into the root zone of the plants. Although an application of nitrogen may aid the recovery of plants after they have tillered, they frequently produce only a single stem and a single seed head.

"Stunted plant growth in irregular-shaped patches that can be seen from a distance is usually the first sign of a nitrogen deficient cereal crop," Dr. Howard says. A closer inspection of such patches will show that they are not related to a poor stand, a wet spot or other obvious management problems."

The next sign is yellow or light green irregular patches in the field. Again, this situation can be easily seen from a distance. A closer inspection here will reveal that the lower leaves on the plants have turned yellow, while the new growth has remained green. What has happened is that the available nitrogen has been translocated from the older leaves to the new ones. Dr. Howard says the yellowing and subsequent browning are usually most apparent at the plant joints.

Still another sign of a nitrogen deficiency is conspicuous patches of lush green growth, resulting from cattle droppings, trash piles, etc., and lush growth along field margins and/or seeding skips in a field of otherwise stunted or yellow plants.

He also says nitrogen deficiency is frequently mistaken for drought stress, especially in its initial stages. However, the patches in a drought-stressed crop will turn blue-green as the leaves start to roll from lack of moisture.

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Nitrogen Deficiency In Cereal Crops (cont'd)

A soil test can be used to identify a nitrogen deficiency. And the soil's moisture level can be assessed at the same time. When the moisture level is sufficient, it should be possible to form the soil into a ball in the hand. When the moisture level is insufficient, the soil will not form a ball.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EARLY INSECT CONTROL IN POTATOES IS BENEFICIAL

It seems that the damage done to potatoes early in the season by leaf-feeding insects like flea beetles, aphids, leaf hoppers and Colorado potato beetles is often underestimated.

Dr. Ulf Soehngen, entomologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, reports that Dr. E. Lloyd believes these insects provide ports of entry for the fungus that causes early blight in potatoes as well as reducing the photosynthetic surface of the leaves they feed on and generally stressing the plants. Dr. Lloyd was a plant pathologist at the North Dakota State University and is now president of the crop consulting firm, Agvise Inc.

He also believes that flea beetles are particularly likely to initiate infections because of the type of feeding damage they cause, and that leaf hoppers may directly transmit the aster yellow virus that causes purple top in potatoes.

Consequently, it is important that these foliage feeders be controlled early in the season, and that good control be maintained at least through August. Mature plants that have set their tubers, and that have been uninterrupted during their growing season by insect pressures, are better able to withstand both fungal and insect attack, according to Dr. Lloyd.

When spread to a potato field early in the season, early blight can cause a considerable amount of damage to the plants and result in a severe crop loss. Dr. Soehngen says the airborne early blight fungus spores can travel for miles via wind currents after having overwintered in crop residues, and that once on potato leaves, they remain viable for weeks. When the right combination plant stress, moisture and temperature occurs, they germinate and invade the plant tissue. Although infestations may occur late in the season, they are often more prevalent in the early growing stages of potatoes.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMON INSECT PESTS AND THEIR CONTROL

Staff at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center's laboratory have been kept very busy lately diagnosing plant samples, many of which have been found to be suffering from insect damage.

Following is a list, submitted by the center's entomologist, Dr. Ulf Soehngen, of some of the more common pests and their recommended control methods.

- Aphids (small black kind) — they have been found on ornamentals, and Diazinon, Cygon, Dutox and permethrin are among the chemicals that are recommended for controlling them. As in all cases when using pesticides, label directions should be read and followed carefully.
- Spider Mites on Evergreens — they are found on both everygreen trees and evergreen groundcover, which they "stress" and can make look very unsightly. A good hosing with cold water is one of the recommended methods of control. The hosing should be repeated when necessary. The chemicals Kelthane or Malathion can also be used.
- Poplar Leafbeetles, Willow Leafbeetles and Elm Leafbeetles — they attack the leaves of these trees and can be controlled with Sevin.
- Sawfly Larvae — they occur in colonies and are especially troublesome on spruce, pine and larch, but they may also occur on willows and other trees. Among the insecticides that are recommended for their control are Sevin, Dutox and Dylox.
- Birch and Lilac Leafminers — they burrow into the leaves of these tree species. Cygon, Diazinon, Sevin (for birch) and Malathion (if the temperature is above 20° C) are among the chemicals that can be used to spray affected trees.

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Common Insect Pests And Their Control (cont'd)

- Cooley Spruce Gall Aphids — they are found on spruce trees where their feeding habits distort the new growth. Sevin or Malathion are recommended for use on trees where there has been a previous problem. And when possible, the galls should be removed by hand.
- Currant Fruitflies — They are found, as their name implies, on currant bushes where they mainly attack the berries. They can be controlled by collecting and disposing of fallen berries and applying Malathion or Methoxychlor to the leaves of the bushes after the blossom petals have fallen and again in 10 days time.
- Imported Currantworms - they feed on the leaves of currant bushes and can cause serious damage if not controlled. Diazinon, Rotenone or Malathion are recommended for their control.
- Slugs — The use of Methiocarb or Metaldehyde baits is one method of reducing their numbers. Another is to keep a piece of ground moist under a board. The slugs will go where it is moist and can be removed by hand.
- Earthworms — they sometimes cause problems in home gardens and on golf courses. Sevin is recommended for use in the home garden. Chlordane is recommended only for golf courses.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRUNING TO PREVENT AND ELIMINATE TREE AND SHRUB PROBLEMS

Anything that can be done to make trees and shrubs more vigorous and to eliminate environmental stress will help to control insects and diseases. In fact, these problems can often be eliminated by proper pruning.

Dr. Ronald Howard, plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, says removing broken, split, diseased, seriously insect-infested and dead branches will lessen the chances of canker, dieback, gall, witches' broom, wilt and wood decay fungi and bacteria gaining entrance to the tree or shrub. He recommends removing weak, crowded and crossing branches while they are still young and removing weakened and injured branches to eliminate the breeding places of such insects as bark beetles and borers.

He also says that it is often necessary to prune trees and shrubs because some of their small and large branches have been infected by such diseases as fireblight, canker, verticillium wilt and other blights or dieback diseases. In these cases the infected part should be removed 15 cm or more beyond any external or internal evidence of the disease, which usually means going back to a living lateral branch or to the trunk of the tree.

Except for "bleeders" like birches, dogwoods, elms and maples, deciduous trees can be pruned almost any time. The best time to prune the bleeders is in the summer. The best time to prune other deciduous trees is in the winter, early spring or mid-summer.

When no disease or insect infestation is present, the aim of all pruning should be to maintain or to improve the natural shape and general appearance of the specimen. Most trees and shrubs will do best if some pruning is done every year, or every two years, to improve the spacing of their main branches, to control their height, to eliminate interfering branches and to open up their centres, thereby facilitating better light penetration and air circulation.

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Pruning To Prevent And Eliminate Tree And Shrub Problems (cont'd)

Dr. Howard recommends pruning just in front of a strong bud, twig or lateral branch with sharp tools. "Make each cut on a slight angle close to the branch or trunk and make it smooth," he says. The slight angle is recommended to prevent water from collecting on the cut surface so that the wound will heal quickly and be less likely to be invaded by fungi that cause wood decay, cankers and dieback.

' The best time in the summer to prune," says Dr. Howard, "is when the weather is dry and no rain is forecast for a day or so. This is because bacterial and fungus spores ooze out from diseased tissues onto the surface of the bark when wet twigs and branches are cut, and are consequently more likely to be spread by the pruning tools, etc. to healthy parts of the tree. This precaution is particularly important from late winter to late spring when trees and shrubs are most susceptible to disease."

Pruning tools should be disinfected frequently between cuts made during pruning to avoid transmitting disease-causing bacteria and fungi to a healthy part of the tree, and they should always be thoroughly disinfected between the pruning of one tree and another. This can be done by spraying or dipping the cutting edges into a 70 per cent solution of rubbing alcohol or into a fresh solution of a liquid household bleach like Javex that has been diluted in the ratio of one part bleach to four parts water.

Dr. Howard says all injured, splintered, diseased and insect-infested wood and bark should be removed from large branches and tree trunks with a sharp knife or chisel, and that the healthy bark and wood should be cut back in the shape of an oval for 2.5 cm or more around each wound or diseased area. The long axis of the cut should be lengthwise on the tree rather than across it because bark grows most rapidly in a lateral direction over wood. Immediately after shaping and smoothing the wound, the cambial tissue and cut edges

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Pruning To Prevent And Eliminate Tree And Shrub Problems (cont'd)

should be painted with orange shellac. After it has dried, the entire surface should be sterilized by painting it with a household bleach solution or a 70 per cent solution of rubbing alcohol. When this has dried, the surface should be covered with a permanent type of tree paint or wound dressing that contains a fungicide like thiram or benomyl. The wound dressing should be inspected periodically and a fresh coat applied if necessary. Old wounds that are not healing properly can be recut, Dr. Howard says, and the wound surface painted with shellac followed by a wound dressing.

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June 20, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ALBERTA BEEKEEPING MANUAL

Whether you are an amateur or a professional beekeeper you will find the new "Alberta Beekeeping Manual" an indispensable reference book.

Compiled by Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of apiculture, Donald MacDonald, and Dorothy C. Murrell, presently assistant apiculturist with the Saskatchewan government, it covers almost every aspect of beekeeping that a Prairie beekeeper might be interested in. And it is extremely well illustrated.

In the section on getting started in beekeeping, it tells the reader the basic equipment he will need, how to purchase his bees, how to examine his hives and the techniques he can use for expanding his operation. It also interprets the Alberta Bee Act.

Other sections cover the supplementary feeding and the spring management of honey bees; removing honey from a hive; the composition of honey; extracting honey; marketing honey and the fall and winter management of bees. Still other sections deal with the management of queens and bee health, which includes such things as brood diseases, adult honey bee diseases, abnormalities in a colony, pesticide poisoning, mites, insects and unwelcome hive intruders — mice, skunks and bears.

Each section contains clear concise information on the topic being discussed and very good illustrations. The appendix lists some useful reference books for those who want to delve further into a particular subject.

Copies of "The Alberta Beekeeping Manual" can be obtained from district offices or from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE REWARDS OF EXHIBITING

Fair exhibiting can be rewarding. In addition to the possibility of monetary and personal gain, exhibitors derive educational benefits and support their community when they enter a competition.

Bertha Eggertson, Alberta Agriculture's provincial clothing and textile specialist, says individuals experience a great deal of satisfaction when they show their products to others. And the recognition of good workmanship is a very rewarding experience in itself.

The features of a high quality product are identified when the product is rated. And the comparing of exhibits is a learning experience for both the exhibitor and the public. Since a judge's comments often include suggestions for improving methods and techniques, they contribute to further learning.

Ms. Eggertson encourages exhibitors to be creative and original. She points out that a new idea or approach can add interest to any display and inspire others to try new ways of doing things.

So, plan now to contribute to, and to support, a summer fair in your district. Contact your local fair convenor or district home economist for a prize list and judging standards for food, sewing and handicrafts.

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CORRECTION

REGIONAL MANAGER FOR RED DEER APPOINTED BY ADC

Bob Thompson, general manager of lending with the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) has announced the appointment of Kenneth G. Friesen to the position of regional manager for the Red Deer region.

Mr. Friesen was born and raised on the family farm near Altona, southern Manitoba. He graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1970 with a B.S.A., having majored in economics and soils.

He was employed by the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation, as a credit agent, from 1970 to 1973. He joined ADC in the fall of 1973 as a loan review officer. And in 1977 he was promoted to assistant manager of farm lending in ADC's Camrose head office.

Mr. Friesen's hobbies are golfing, fishing and cross country skiing. He and his wife, Darlene, plan to move to Red Deer.

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ON-FARM DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS INCREASE

Forty-three new projects have been approved to date in the current fiscal year under Farming for the Future's On-Farm Demonstration Program. This brings the total number of projects being funded under the program, since it was established just over a year ago to 94.

Dr. Yilma Teklemariam, research coordinator of Alberta Agriculture's research division, reports that $192,125 have been allocated for the 43 new projects, which averages out to about $4,468 per project. The funding allocated for the 94 projects comes to more than $357,000.

The projects, which are approved on an annual basis, involve the demonstration and testing by farmers and agricultural specialists of new agricultural concepts and technology. And they relate to livestock production, crop production and the management of agricultural resources. Among the projects now in progress is one that involves the use of solar energy on the farm. Others involve the use of an automatic depth control system for farm implements, a hog barn heat exchange system and an odorless manure treatment system.

The projects are being tested under practical farm conditions and are located all the way from the Fort Vermilion area in the north to the Lethbridge area in the south.

As each project is concluded the team involved will submit a report to Farming for the Future, which will make the information available to district agriculturists.

Dr. Teklemariam says any farmer in Alberta who has an innovative idea that he thinks could benefit farmers in his region or the agricultural industry as a whole can apply for a grant under the On-Farm Demonstration Program. And he advises farmers who think

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On-Farm Demonstration Projects Increase (cont'd)

that they may have something to contribute in these areas to contact their district agriculturist. If the latter thinks the idea has merit, he will help the farmer to develop a proposal for the regional director. A regional committee will review it and make recommendations, which will be forwarded to the secretary of the Agricultural Research Council of Alberta where the final decision will be made.

The Agricultural Research Council of Alberta operates under the chairmanship of the minister of agriculture (the deputy minister is the vice-chairman) who appoints the members, which include a representative of the Legislative Assembly, representatives from various sectors of the research community and farmers from across the province.

Farmers and members of farm organizations can obtain a list of the On-Farm Demonstration projects and the results of any completed projects from the Research Division, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 (Telephone: 427-3789).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MACHINERY COSTS AND CUSTOM RATES

The growing demand for custom work in Alberta has resulted in an increasing number of farmers seeking information so that they can be sure that they are paying a fair price for custom work and in an increasing number of custom operators seeking information so that they can be sure that they are charging enough to make a fair profit.

To help these parties to negotiate rates that are fair to both, Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch publishes an annual publication entitled "Farm Machinery Costs as a Guide to Custom Rates". The 1983 edition provides current machinery cost information and covers two and four-wheel drive tractors, cultivating, seeding, spraying and forage equipment as well as self-propelled and pull-type combines. It also covers grinders, mixers, grain dryers and farm trucks. It gives the fuel consumption for various tractor horsepowers, it discusses points that should be considered in a custom hiring agreement and it contains machinery cost and machinery custom charge worksheets. The worksheets are provided to enable the reader to calculate his individual machinery costs because of the variation that exists in these from one farm to another.

According to "Farm Machinery Costs as a Guide to Custom Rates – 1983", new machinery prices are more or less the same as they were last year. Although some operating costs have continued to inflate, interest rates have dropped and projected costs for owning and operating farm equipment this year are slightly lower than they were in 1982.

Another publication that is intended to be used in conjunction with "Farm Machinery Costs as a Guide to Custom Rates" is "Custom Rates Annual Survey Summary – 1982. Alberta Agriculture has been publishing these annual summaries, which are designed to meet the growing demand for custom rate information and land rental rates, since 1977.

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Machinery Costs And Custom Rates (cont'd)

The 1982 edition contains a summary of custom work and land rental rates that were being charged last year. The rates quoted are not intended as recommended rates for 1983, but as a general guide. Because they are intended only as a guide, the publication contains work-sheets to enable the individual to calculate and evaluate his specific situation.

Both the publications mentioned above can also be used as a guide for machinery management, budgeting and financial planning for credit needs. And lenders, educators, government institutions, etc. may find them useful.

Copies of "Farm Machinery Costs as a Guide to Custom Rates – Spring 1983" (Agdex 825-4) and "Custom Rates Annual Survey Summary – 1982" (Agdex 825-9) can be obtained from district agriculturists or the Publications Office, Agriculture Building, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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June 27, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HERBICIDES FOR UNDERSEEDED FORAGE CROPS

by Peter Funk
District Agriculturist, Red Deer

Faced with weed problems in their underseeded forages, farmers often ask: "Are there herbicides I can use to control the weeds without injuring the forage and/or companion crops?" And their concern is certainly legitimate since these weeds reduce the vigor of the forage crop seedlings, resulting in thin stands, and they can reduce the yield and quality of any companion crops.

The answer to the question depends on the weeds present and on the forage and companion crops being grown. When a herbicide is used on a companion crop seeded to both a legume and a grass, its use must be registered for all of the crops that are present. For example, if alfalfa and brome grass are underseeded with a six-row barley, Hoe-Grass, Carbyne or Avenge 200-C may be used for grassy weed control, while Embritox E is the only herbicide that can be used on all three crops for broadleaved weed control. Failure to select the correct herbicide can result in severe losses — timothy can be completely destroyed if sprayed with Hoe-Grass.

Obviously, there are a number of problem weeds for which control is not possible in seedling forages. These include chickweed, hemp nettle, cleavers and corn spurry. In situations where these weeds are the problem, the only approach is to control or reduce the level of the weed population prior to seeding the forage crops.

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Herbicides For Underseeded Forage Crops (cont'd)

In the years prior to seeding a forage crop, grow crops that permit the control of these weeds. Patches of Canada thistle and other persistent perennial weeds can be controlled with a non-selective, non-persistent herbicide, such as Roundup, in the spring or the fall prior to seeding. And in extreme cases of weed infestation, the use of summerfallow the year before seeding may be necessary. Practices that will help to establish a vigorous stand of forage are a must — fertilize properly, seed into a firm seedbed at the optimum time and use high quality seed.

Further information on herbicides and weed control in legumes and grasses with or without a companion crop, is contained in the publication "Guide to Weed Control in Alberta, Part One — Chemical", (Agdex No.641-9). It is available from district offices and the Publications Office, Agriculture Building, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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June 27, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAXIMIZING HAY QUALITY

Since a large proportion of this year's firstcut of hay in Alberta will be well below average from the point of view of quantity, its quality will be more important than ever.

Stettler's district agriculturist, Andy Birch, says farmers should take all the measures they can to protect the quality of the hay they manage to harvest. These include early cutting, minimal handling, properly adjusting harvesting equipment and either putting the hay up in large compact stacks, covering it with plastic or putting it in a hay shed.

Mr. Birch points out that waiting to cut hay much beyond the 10 per cent bloom stage in the case of legumes, or much beyond the early heading stage in the case of grasses, may increase the volume of hay slightly, but that it will also greatly reduce its quality. He says that a mixed stand of legumes and grasses should be harvested when the grass is in the early heading stage because the quality of grasses deteriorates as they mature more quickly than the quality of legumes.

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Maximizing Hay Quality (cont'd)

He also says that because 70 per cent of the plant protein in legumes is in their leaves, it is extremely important to avoid excessive leaf losses through overdrying or during the handling process. Leaf losses can vary from 3 to 5 per cent of the total dry matter, depending upon the type of baling and pick-up systems that are used. And poor windrows, an improperly adjusted pick-up, a slow ground speed and/or an overly dry hay frequently result in losses that range from 10 to 15 per cent of the total dry matter. According to Mr. Birch, such losses can be reduced if the hay is baled when its moisture content is between 20 and 25 per cent.

Apart from the fact that a high quality hay is required for feed ng lactating cows and calves, it is valuable because it can be mixed with a low quality roughage, like straw, and fed as a maintenance ration to beef cattle during the winter.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHYSIOLOGICAL LEAF ROLL OF TOMATOES

Physiological leaf roll is a common non-infectious disorder of tomato plants, which generally occurs after an extended period of either wet or dry weather. The condition may be aggravated by a nutrient imbalance in the soil.

According to the plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, Dr. Ronald Howard, leaf roll is most likely to occur on tomato plants that have been deeply and closely cultivated or that have been severely pruned. And it is more prevalent in a poorly drained soil.

Dr. Howard says the condition generally starts on the older, lower leaves of the plants and proceeds upwards until almost all the leaves have been affected. The rolled leaves may become stiff, leathery and somewhat thickened. They tend to make a rattling noise if the plant is shaken; and a heavy wind or rain may whip and tear them, giving the plants a ragged appearance. However, Dr. Howard says the growth and yield of such plants are not usually noticeably affected.

He also says that the incidence of physiological leaf roll in tomatoes can be minimized by:

- planting tomatoes in a well-drained soil.
- applying an adequate amount of fertilizer on the basis of a soil test (do not overfertilize, especially with nitrogen).
- avoiding deep, close cultivation, especially after the fruit has set.
- avoiding severe pruning (it may expose the fruit to sunscald injury).
- maintaining a uniform soil moisture (mulch the plants if necessary).
- growing tomato varieties that are less susceptible to leaf roll (it may be necessary to grow several varieties to find out which are less susceptible under local conditions).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEED CONTROL FOR HOME GROUNDS

Every year Alberta Agriculture's regional crop laboratories receive a large number of home garden plant samples that have been injured by a soil sterilant.

Because a soil sterilant kills all vegetation in the area that is treated and prevents new plants from growing for one or more years, they should not be widely used around the home. In fact they should be used only when bare ground is the objective, and then they should be used strictly according to the manufacturer's directions.

Soil sterilants should not be applied to a sloping area or to an area where runoff water will carry the treated soil into an area where desirable plants are growing or where they may be planted. And a safety zone should always be left between the treated area and nearby trees and shrubs so that their roots do not take up the chemical. And remember that the lateral roots of both trees and shrubs extend for a distance that is approximately twice their height.

Gramoxone or Weedrite is one of a number of contact herbicides that are designed for controlling vegetation in driveways, walkways, parking areas, tennis courts, bricked-in patios, under fences and in backlanes. It will kill the annual and perennial weeds by burning off their top growth. It does not go into their roots.

Amitrol-T can be used to eradicate most perennial weeds, but repeated applications may be necessary for some species. This herbicide is safe to use on sloping land and around trees and shrubs, providing that the spray is kept off the foliage and the green bark

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Weed Control For Home Grounds (cont'd) -

of the trees. It is a systemic, which means that the chemical moves through treated plants or trees into their root systems when their foliage is sprayed.

The above information is contained in a publication entitled "Weed Control for Home Grounds". It also contains information on weed control in established and new lawns, vegetable and flower gardens as well as around ornamental shrubs.

"Weed Control for Home Grounds" (agdex 641-1) can be obtained from district agriculturists or the Publications Office, Agriculture Building, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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June 27, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOVERNMENT SHELTERBELT TREES AVAILABLE

Following is a list of free government trees and shrubs that are available from the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre at Oliver to farmers for the 1984 shelterbelt planting season and a short list of trees that are available to acreage holders:-

For Farmers

Species	Supply Situation
Tall Deciduous	
Brooks # 6 Poplar	Good Supply
Griffin Poplar	Good Supply
Plains Cottonwood Poplar	Good Supply
Laurel Leaf Willow	Good Supply
Acute Leaf Willow	Good Supply
Golden Willow	Good Supply
Peach Leaf Willow	Good Supply
Manitoba Maple	Good Supply
Green Ash	Good Supply
Bur Oak	Good Supply
White Birch	Good Supply
Small Deciduous	
Mayday	Limited Supply
Chokecherry	Limited Supply
Sea Buckthorn	Limited Supply
Hedge Plants	
Caragana	Good Supply
Villosa Lilac	Limited Supply
Honeysuckle	Limited Supply
Dogwood	Limited Supply
Hedgerose	Good Supply
Altaica Rose	Good Supply
Cherry Prinsepia	Good Supply

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Government Shelterbelt Trees Available (cont'd)

Coniferous

White Spruce	Good Supply
Colorado Spruce	Good Supply
Norway Spruce	Good Supply
Lodgepole Pine	Good Supply
Scots Pine	Good Supply
Siberian Larch	Good Supply

Miscellaneous

Conservation Bundle	One per order

For Acreage Holders

Tall Deciduous

Brooks # 6 Poplar
Acute Leaf Willow

Hedge Plants

Caragana

Coniferous Trees

White Spruce

Further information and application forms can be obtained from district agriculturists and agricultural fieldmen.

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June 27, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STOCK DOG CLINIC SCHEDULED FOR END OF JULY

Lakeland College in Vermilion will be sponsoring a stock dog training clinic from July 26 - 30.

The dogs will be divided into three categories: those that are keen to work, but which have had little or no experience; those that have had some experience but have novice handlers; and those, which, with their handlers, are capable of participating in a trial.

The instructors will be Ted Sutton of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and Lee Goodfellow of Lakeland College. Both men are teachers and, between them, have had 20 years of experience in raising and training Border Collies. They have also had a considerable amount of experience in Western Canadian sheepdog trials.

The clinic will be followed by the Alberta Open Sheepdog Trial on July 30. Entry is optional and the fee will be $20. Entries will be taken up to the day of the trial.

The registration fee for the clinic is $70. And cheques or money orders should be made payable to Lakeland College and sent to the Department of Continuing Education, Lakeland College, Vermilion Campus, Vermilion, Alberta, TOB 4MO.

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June 27, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FREEZER JAM AND JELLIES

Every year about this time Alberta Agriculture's district home economists receive numerous calls about the sugar content of freezer jams and jellies.

Most of the callers want to know whether they can reduce the amount of sugar that is recommended in freezer jam and jelly recipes. And many feel that the amount that is recommended is too high.

However, according to Debbie Brekke, district home economist at Airdrie, the sugar should not be reduced. She explains that if one ingredient is reduced, in this case sugar, it will upset the delicate balance between it and the acid and pectin, and that this imbalance will effect the jelling properties of the product.

She also says that anyone who does reduce the amount of sugar called for in a freezer jam or jelly recipe will have to be either satisfied with a product that is very runny or else use the commercial pectin product "Slim Set". It consists of a natural-type gelatin and helps to make a firm gel.

Ms. Brekke says that the flavor of freshly picked summer fruits can be retained in jams and jellies that are stored in a freezer because they do not have to be cooked.

The general handling of these jams and jellis differs from that of conventional jams and jellies in the following ways.

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Freezer Jams And Jellies (cont'd)

First, they must be kept in a freezer because they have not been sterilized through boiling. Second, the pectin must be added after the sugar, regardless of whether it is in liquid or powder form. Third, the jam or jelly must be stored in a freezer-proof container or jar that has enough space at the top to allow for expansion. Fourth, these products must be sealed with tight-fitting lids; not with paraffin. And fifth, after having been sealed with a tight-fitting lid, they must be left to stand at room temperature (before they are put into the freezer) until they have set which can take as long as 48 hours.

Ms. Brekke says frozen jams and jellies that have been opened will keep in a refrigerator from two to three weeks.

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AGRI-NEWS

July 4, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Twenty New Projects Approved For Graduate Student Research Support Program. 1

A New Animal Hybrid Has Been Developed In Britain 3

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWENTY NEW PROJECTS APPROVED FOR GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM

Twenty new agricultural research projects have been approved for the 1983-84 fiscal year under Farming for the Future's Graduate Student Research Support Program. This brings the total number of projects that have been approved since the program got underway last September to 38.

According to the coordinator of Alberta Agriculture's research division, Dr. Yilma Teklemariam, $121,624 have been allocated to the new projects, which brings the funding for all the projects currently in progress to $245,224.

The new projects include one that deals with the refinement of electronic sensing for agricultural machinery. Another involves an evaluation of the effect the soil's physical and chemical conditions have on the yield and protein content of no-till crops. Another is concerned with the effects of early weaning on cow herd maintenance costs and income. Two others are designed to evaluate the influence of soil and agronomic factors on the denitrification rate of soils in Alberta and the possible correlation between air-borne bacteria and the incidence of pneumonia in commercial swine units.

Of the 20 graduate students that will be working on the new projects, 18 are at the University of Alberta, one is at the University of Calgary and one is at the the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Dr. Teklemariam says the Graduate Student Support Program is designed to support and encourage graduate student research in the agricultural sciences, and that it provides financial assistance in the form of awards to approved graduate student research projects that relate to Alberta's agricultural industry. Awards of up to $10,000 are made available for each project that is approved in an open competition.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PERFORMANCE AND CARCASS GRADING OF ROASTER CHICKENS

In two experiments, carried out by Alberta Agriculture's poultry branch, to compare the performance and carcass grading of a roaster strain of chicken with that of three commercial broiler strains, the roaster strain grew more slowly than the broiler strains, but it had a better feed conversion rate, a lower mortality rate and a better carcass grade.

Mario Rebolledo, research officer with the poultry branch, says the two experiments are part of an on-going research program (which will also cover nutrition and management) into the production of chickens for roasting. He says that these birds are in great demand because they are considerably larger than broiler chickens and because they have a better flavor. However, the chickens are often not profitable because of an increased incidence of leg disorders, breast blisters and mortality. Up to now chickens for roasting have generally been produced from the same strains of meat-type chickens as broilers, the only difference being that the former are marketed at 10 weeks of age and weigh about 3.2 kg while the latter are marketed at six or seven weeks of age and weigh about 1,700 g.

This type of chicken that was tested in the two experiments referred to above is a strain that has recently been developed specifically for the roasting chicken market. Referred to as "roaster chickens", these birds are slower growing than broiler chickens and they are claimed to have a lower incidence of leg problems and to produce a better quality carcass

However. Mr. Rebolledo reports that the roaster chickens did not show a consistent economic advantage over two of the broiler strains, and that returns from the third strain of broiler chickens over the cost of feed and the cost of the day-old birds in the first experiment were equal to those from the roasters. In the second experiment they were higher than those for the roasters.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEEPAGE CONTROL IN DUGOUTS

Anyone who is planning to construct a dugout should choose the site on the basis of its soil type.

A clay soil is usually the ideal soil for a dugout. The exception is a clay soil that contains a calcium deposit. Sandy soils permit a high level of seepage as does a soil that contains layers of sand.

There are a number of methods that can be used to seal a dugout. One is called gleization. It has been used successfully in Russia for many years and entails lining the dugout with an organic material, such as straw, and then covering the straw with soil. The microorganisms that grow in the straw gradually develop a layer of material that is impervious to water. This method is particularly effective in a dugout which is leaking because of a fractured till formation.

Another method is to line the dugout with clay. The success of this type of lining will depend upon the clay content of the soil. Its content can be determined by taking a handful of the soil and rolling it on a flat surface to form a rod about the thickness of the little finger. If it is suitable for a clay lining it will be possible to form the rod into a closed ring without breaking it.

Polyethylene liners are frequently used in dugouts. They should have a minimum thickness of 0.162 mm (6 mil) and they come in rolls of 6 m x 50 m (20' x 100') or 12 m x 30 m (40' x 100'). They can be joined with two-sided tape, by sewing or by heat-sealing.

Butyl rubber liners are also used in dugouts. They are reliable, relatively long-lasting and will not deteriorate like polyethylene if exposed to direct sunlight.

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Seepage Control In Dugouts (cont'd)

Then there are the chemical methods of preventing seepage losses in a dugout. They need to be repeated every few years, and they do not normally give as long service as the physical methods. Also, it is advisable to have the dugout water chemically analyzed before drinking it when the dugout has been sealed by one of the chemical methods.

Detailed information on the above methods is contained in a publication entitled "Seepage Control in Dugouts" (Agdex 716 (B32)). It can be obtained from district agriculturists or by writing the Print Media Office, Agriculture Building, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMPUTER PROGRAM FOR ESTIMATING BUILDING COSTS

The use of Alberta Agriculture's Computer Program for Estimating Farm Building Costs is available to farmers in the province, free of charge, through their regional engineers and district agriculturists.

The program was designed by the engineering and rural services division to enable farmers to estimate the material and labor costs that would be incurred in the construction of a standard stud wall, truss-roofed building or a pole frame, truss-roofed building. The computer can estimate the amount of skilled and unskilled labor that would be required for each of the building components and it can calculate a partial bill for the materials that would be involved. And local prices and price changes for materials can be substituted in the program.

More details on the program can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture's systems engineer, Dave Scott, regional engineers or from a publication entitled "Computer Program for Estimating Farm Building Costs" (Agdex 710-1). It is available from district agriculturists or by writing to the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLOSSOM-END ROT ON TOMATOES AND PEPPERS

Blossom-end rot on tomatoes is confined to the blossom end of the fruit and appears as a brownish, sunken, dead area. It is associated with environmental conditions and is not caused by a pathogenic microorganism.

However, according to Dr. Ronald Howard, plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, secondary organisms occasionally invade this dry, firm tissue and produce a soft rot. He says internal blackening of the fruit, known as blackheart, can also occur and may be present without any external symptoms.

Blossom-end rot usually follows a drought or highly fluctuating moisture conditions. In fact, an excessive amount of moisture preceding a drought encourages the disorder, and early fruit is more often affected than later fruit.

Dr. Howard points out that a calcium deficiency is a fundamental cause of blossom-end rot. "This deficiency", he explains, "may occur because of an inadequate level of calcium in the soil, because of a heavy demand for it by rapidly growing plants or because of an insufficient amount of soil moisture to make the calcium available to the plants."

Hence, he recommends watering tomato plants during a dry period to keep the soil's moisture level as even as possible. He also recommends avoiding a crowded planting pattern and severe pruning. During a dry period the plants should be cultivated shallowly or mulched to keep the weeds down.

Dr. Howard also recommends applying lime to soils that are known to be deficient in calcium and avoiding the excessive use of a commercial fertilizer that contains a high level of soluble salts. In addition, a foliar spray of calcium can be applied when the first fruit is about the size of a golf ball. The number of applications that will be required will depend upon the level of calcium in the soil and its balance in relation to the other elements. However, more than three or four applications could cause marginal leaf burn.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COOLEY SPRUCE GALL APHID

White cottony specks on the branches of spruce trees and green to reddish purple galls on their new growth indicates that they are infested with the Cooley spruce gall aphid.

Most species of spruce are susceptible to attack by these insects, but damage is most noticeable on white and Colorado spruce. However, it is mainly cosmetic in that the galls remain on the branches for two or three years making the trees somewhat unsightly. Old galls have mouth-like openings, stunted needle-like projections and are reddish-brown. A really heavy infestation may affect the growth and vigor of a tree, but will rarely kill it.

Cooley Spruce Gall Aphid

In a heavy infestation of gall aphids, an entire tree can be covered with white cottony specks, which are produced by the female aphids to protect their eggs. When the first generation of nymphs hatch, they feed at the base of newly emerged needles, and are protected by galls, which are initiated by a salivary secretion from the mother. The galls are about 5 cm long and contain hundreds of nymphs. Succeeding generations of nymphs, of which there may be as many as five over a summer, feed on the branches where they suck the sap out of the old needles.

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Cooley Spruce Gall Aphid (cont'd)

Since the Cooley spruce gall aphid has very few natural enemies, control may be necessary if the infestation is heavy. One of the recommended methods entails picking off the new galls as they form and burning them. This will improve the appearance of the tree and help to reduce the aphid population. The other method is to spray the tree with Sevin 60 WP or malathion, according to label directions.

Information on the Cooley spruce gall aphid is contained in a federal publication entitled "Cooley Spruce Gall Aphid". It can be obtained in Alberta from district agriculturists or by writing to the Publications Office, Agriculture Building, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING FOR USE WITH PESTICIDES

If you are one of many farm wives in Alberta who have been wondering what is the best way to launder pesticide-contaminated clothing, here are some useful suggestions from the provincial clothing and textile specialist, Bertha Eggertson.

She says that special care must be taken when handling and washing pesticide-contaminated clothes to protect both the person handling and washing them and the person who will be wearing them again. And she points out that if proper laundering procedures are not followed after each wearing, the chemicals may stay in the clothing and be absorbed by the wearer's skin.

Here is the washing procedure she recommends:-

- Wear rubber gloves when handling pesticide-contaminated clothing.
- Discard any items that have been saturated with a full-strength chemical concentrate.
- Store contaminated clothing in a disposable plastic garbage bag until the items are washed.
- Wash the clothes after spraying has been completed for the day.
- Wash them separately from other clothing.
- Do not overcrowd the washing machine.
- Pre-rinse contaminated clothing by using the pre-soak cycle on an automatic washing machine.
- Use the hot water setting.
- Use the full water level.
- Use a normal cycle.
- Use a heavy duty detergent.
- Repeat the wash two or three times if the clothing is badly contaminated.

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Protective Clothing For Use With Pesticides (cont'd)

- Dry the clothes on a line to avoid the possibility of contaminating the dryer.
- Rinse the washing machine when the wash is finished by running hot water through its full cycle.

The above information plus information on the type of protective clothing that should be worn when using pesticides and the type of protection that is recommended for the face is contained in a new publication entitled "Protective Clothing For Use With Pesticides" (Homedex 1353-90). It can be obtained by writing to the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCE PLANNING APPOINTED

Dr. A. O. Olson, Alberta Agriculture's assistant deputy minister responsible for research and resource development, has announced the appointment of Brian Colgan to the position of director of the resource planning division. His appointment is effective immediately.

This position was created as a result of the department's recent reorganization, which combined land and water resource development into a single sector. And the new division is comprised of the land use activities and the land classification and the project planning branches of the former irrigation division.

Mr. Colgan takes over the position after having directed the department's land use activities section for the last two and one-half years.

As director of resource planning, he will be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the division as well as for directing the planning and background study necessary to co-ordinate departmental initiatives in land and water resource development.

Raised on a mixed farm near Olds and a graduate of the University of Alberta's Faculty of Agriculture, Mr. Colgan has more than 10 years service with Alberta Agriculture. It includes eight years as district agriculturist at Leduc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADC APPOINTS NEW LOAN REVIEW OFFICER

Randy Niven, manager of farm lending with the Agriculture Development Corporation (ADC) has announced the appointment of Saroj Gyawali of Fairview to the position of loan review officer in Camrose.

Mr. Gyawali was born and raised in Nepal, and was employed by the Agricultural Development Bank in Nepal for four years. He then moved to Australia where he graduated in 1977 with a masters degree in agricultural economics from the Australian National University.

Mr. Gyawali emigrated to Canada in 1978 and commenced employment in February 1980 with ADC as a loan officer in Fairview. His interests and hobbies include photography, camping and hiking.

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COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

1983

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Tour
Picture Butte, Alberta . . . . . July 6 - 8

Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Stampede Park
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . July 8 - 17

REDA Teen Seminar A
Goldeye Centre
Rocky Mountain House, Alberta . . . . . July 9 - 15

Agricultural Institute of Canada
Truro, Nova Scotia . . . . . July 10 - 14

Canadian Home Economics Association Conference
Saint John, New Brunswick . . . . . July 10 - 14

REDA Youth Seminar A
Goldeye Centre
Rocky Mountain House, Alberta . . . . . July 15 - 21

Annual Conference of Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture
Brudenell Resort
Cardigan, Prince Edward Island . . . . . July 17 - 22

Alberta Women's Week
Olds College
Olds, Alberta . . . . . July 18 - 21

1983 World Show and Sale of Charolais Cattle
Red Deer Exhibition Grounds
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . July 18 - 23

REDA Teen Seminar B
Goldeye Centre
Rocky Mountain House, Alberta . . . . . July 21 - 27

Edmonton's Klondike Days Exposition
Northlands Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . July 21 - 30

Alberta Horticulture Week
Olds College
Olds, Alberta . . . . . July 24 - 29

REDA Youth Seminar B
Goldeye Centre
Rocky Mountain House, Alberta . . . . . July 27 - August 2

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Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Whoop Up Days – Agricultural Summer Fair
Lethbridge Exhibition Grounds
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . . August 1 - 6

REDA Teen Seminar C
Goldeye Centre
Rocky Mountain House, Alberta . . . . . August 2 - 8

Canadian Cattlemen's Association – Semi-Annual Meeting
Kamloops, B.C . . . . . August 4 - 6

International Congress on Animal Reproduction and Artificial Insemination
Grand Forks
North Dakota, U.S.A. . . . . August 7 - 11

International Trading and Development Conference
Holland . . . . . August 15 - 19

National Dairy Council of Canada – Annual Convention
Westin Hotel,
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . September 11 - 13

Canadian Agricultural Extension Council
London, Ontario . . . . . September 12 - 16

Poultry Servicemen's Workshop
Lake Louise Inn
Banff, Alberta . . . . . September 19 - 21

Round-Up '83
Stampede Park
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . October 26 - 30

The Alberta Beekeepers Association's 50th Annual Convention
Mayfield Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 2 - 4

Northlands Farmfair
AgriCom Building
Northlands Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 3 - 13

Women of Unifarm – Annual Convention
Capri Centre
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . November 8 - 9

Taking Stock – Market Prospects for Cattle and Hogs
Convention Inn South
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 9

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Saskatoon Fall Fair and Mexabition
Prairieland Exhibition Grounds
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... November 18 - 22

Canadian Western Agribition
Exhibition Grounds
Regina, Saskatchewan ..... November 25 - December 2

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture Standing
Committee on Vegetables for Processing Convention
Westin Hotel
Calgary, Alberta ..... December 1 - 2

Alberta Polled Hereford Society — Annual Meeting
Red Deer, Alberta ..... December 4

Alberta Cattle Commission Annual Meeting
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton, Alberta ..... December 6 - 7

1984

Unifarm Annual Convention
Westin Hotel
Edmonton Alberta ..... January 9 - 13

Alberta Canola Growers Association — Annual Convention
Four Seasons Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta ..... January 25 - 27

Canadian Charolais Association Annual Meeting and Convention
Holiday Inn — Downtown
London, Ontario ..... February 2 - 4

Alberta Dairymen's Annual Convention
Convention Inn
Edmonton Alberta ..... February 6 - 8

Canadian Federation of Agriculture — Annual Meeting
Edmonton, Alberta ..... February 7 - 9

Alberta Polled Hereford Society — Annual Show and Sale
Westerner Exposition Grounds
Red Deer, Alberta ..... March 9 - 10

International Congress on Animal Reproduction and Artificial Insemination
Urbana, Champaign
Illinois, U.S.A ..... June 10 - 14

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Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

National Alfalfa Improvement Conference
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . . July 16 - 20

Edmonton's Klondike Days Exposition
Northlands Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . July 19 - 28

Canadian Society of Soil Science
Banff School of Fine Arts
Banff, Alberta . . . . . August 26 - 29

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA CROW CONSENSUS POSSIBLE

In a joint press release the Alberta minister of agriculture and leaders of five major Alberta producer organizations announced that discussions have produced some agreement on principles applicable to the Crow rate reform.

The minister, LeRoy Fjordbotten, A. MacPherson of the Alberta Wheat Pool, S. Bell of Unifarm, S. Berg of the Alberta Cattle Commission, D. Felstad of the Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board and T. Allen of the United Grain Growers have all agreed that a proposal worked out at the group's direction has considerable merit and should be recommended to producers and processors for serious consideration. If the producers in the province agree, said Mr. Fjordbotten, we will see that elusive "consensus" on Crow reform emerge.

Over the last few weeks the group has been engaged in confidential discussions, relative to the concept embodied in the so-called "freedom of choice" option, in an attempt to flesh out details for a concept that holds some promise as an alternative approach to the method of payment proposals contained in Bill C-155. Discussion within the farm leaders' group concentrated on avoiding concerns with previous payment proposals and resulted in a method of calculating individual producer entitlements that was not solely determined by acreage calculations. Called the "Double 80 Solution", the proposal relies on the so-called freedom of choice option to the extent that it represents an opportunity for producers to choose the way they will receive all or a portion of the proposed entitlements to federal Crow benefit payments through accounts established on their behalf by the Western Grain Stabilization Administration. Producers could elect to receive their entitlements directly in cash or by payment directly to the railways on the producers' behalf.

The reference to "Double 80" arises from the limit of 80 per cent placed upon the amount of Crow benefit available for producers' choice, and from the limit of 80 per cent

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placed on any entitlement that might result from acreage and productivity calculations used as an alternative to proven marketings.

The minister said that he and the farm leaders had agreed to further develop the package and to present it to the members of their organizations for consideration and discussion. Although nothing precludes consideration of other proposals, each of the participants in the meetings felt pleased with what had been accomplished to date and confident that further development of the proposal would produce further progress.

The group emphasized that a resolution of the Crow rate issue in a manner that would benefit all producers and the agricultural processing industry in total is essential to the health and viability of the agricultural base. It called for an objective review of the "Double 80 Solution" by all those involved in and affected by the Crow debate.

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July 11, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINISTER WANTS CHANGES TO FEED GRAIN POLICY

Alberta's minister of agriculture, LeRoy Fjordbotten, wants changes in Canada's feed grain policy.

In releasing the contents of a Telex forwarded to the federal agriculture minister, Eugene Whelan, Mr. Fjordbotten said there are several issues on which he wants action. One deals with feed grain quotas. The minister feels strongly that Canadian Wheat Board quota restrictions on non board feed grains should be removed within the board's designated area. Each grain company could administer its own space controls if it deems them to be necessary. The agriculture minister also requested that the wheat board be relieved of its authority for issuing grain import permits.

Mr. Fjordbotten feels that the needs of feed grain producers and users, regardless of their location in Canada, can best be served by a policy which allows buyers and sellers to come together and establish their own conditions for sale. He said "The problems and complications of the present system seem to occur when the Canadian Wheat Board becomes involved, and in particular when Eastern feeders rely on the Canadian Wheat Board for cash grain supplies". He went on to say that the wheat board is not designed, nor does it function, as an effective supplier of domestic feed grain for spot sales.

"The strength of the Canadian Wheat Board should be in contractual export sales", he said. "Efforts to direct it to sell feed grain into the domestic market will continue to be very frustrating and likely unrewarding."

And he added that action must be taken on the Crow issue (Bill C-155) to remove economic distortions which affect the pricing of Prairie feed grains.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHEAT PRICE OUTLOOK

World wheat prices are not expected to be any better during the 1983-84 crop year than they were during the last crop year, according to Alberta Agriculture's grain marketing economist, Les Lyster.

He says "We expect world wheat prices to be under pressure until late July or August and to remain weak during the 1983-84 crop year. The Canadian Wheat Board's asking price for No. 1CWRS 13.5 per cent at Vancouver is forecast to decline to $215 to $220 per tonne range, and asking prices at Thunder Bay for top grade wheat are expected to bottom out at around $190 per tonne. After that we expect a modest seasonal price recovery of $10 to $20 per tonne into the winter of 1984".

Mr. Lyster points out that large wheat and feed grain supplies, a stagnant demand for wheat and a strong American dollar against other major world currencies are all negative factors from the point of view of North American wheat prices.

World wheat production for 1983-84 is currently estimated by the United States Department of Agriculture to be 470 million tonnes, which would be only 10 million tonnes less than the record 1982-83 crop. And world wheat usage for 1983-84 is estimated at about 460 million tonnes or one per cent below the 1982-83 level.

World wheat carryover stocks for 1983-84 are projected to be 108 million tonnes or about 10 million tonnes above the 1982-83 carryover and 25 million tonnes above the 1981-82 carryover. Hence, on a tonnage basis, 1983-84 world wheat carryover stocks are expected to be the largest they have been since 1968-69 when they reached the 115 million tonne level. The stock/use ratio predicted for 1983-84 at 23.6 per cent is similar to that of 1978-79.

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Wheat Price Outlook (cont'd)

Despite the fact that Canadian wheat exports reached a record level during a sluggish world wheat trade in 1982-83, they were not sufficient to prevent a further buildup in this country's carryover stocks. And since Canadian farmers planted an enormous wheat crop this year, Mr. Lyster says supplies will continue to be large if yields are anywhere near normal.

The above article is based on information that was available in June, 1983.

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July 11, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEED GRAIN PRICE OUTLOOK

Alberta Agriculture's grain marketing economist, Les Lyster, is not optimistic about feed grain prices in the 1983-84 crop year.

However, he thinks that July will see the bottom of the barley market and that non-board prices should strengthen slowly from August into the spring of 1984. Up to now the non-board market has been under pressure from an increase in farmer selling, but this is expected to ease off. Mr. Lyster believes that non-board barley country elevator bids will have recovered to $85 or $90 per tonne by February-March 1984.

Canadian domestic barley usage during 1983-84 is expected to be above the 1982-83 level, and Canadian barley exports for the 1983-84 crop year are expected to be similar to those of the 1982-83 crop year. As of July 1984, carryover stocks should be around 4.2 million tonnes or 1.4 million tonnes below the record carryover projected for July 1983 and similar to those of 1982.

Mr. Lyster reports that Canadian farmers planted 11.4 million acres of barley last spring, which is 14 per cent lower than the acreage planted in 1982. And the 1983 Canadian barley crop is expected to be about 11.5 million tonnes or 2.6 million tonnes lower than the record 1982 barley crop. Total 1983-84 Canadian barley supplies are projected to be 17.1 million tonnes or 1.1 million tonnes below the record 1982-83 supply level.

Mr. Lyster does not expect any final payment for barley delivered to the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) in the 1982-83 crop year. Although he expects barley prices in the export market during 1983-84 to be only slightly above those of 1982-83, he thinks the final payment for barley delivered to the board in the 1983-84 crop year will be a reasonable one because of the lower initial payment.

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Feed Grain Price Outlook (cont'd)

CWB quotas for the 1983-84 crop year are expected to be slightly bigger than they were in 1982-83 because of a drop in assigned acres. However, they are expected to remain restrictive.

The above article is based on information that was available in June, 1983.

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July 11, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCLEROTINIA CONTROL IN CANOLA CROPS

To date weather conditions over most of Alberta appear to favor significant losses in canola crops from sclerotinia.

In view of this outlook, Dr. Ieuan Evans thinks that farmers in those areas where the disease has been a problem in previous years would be wise to consider an aerial application of the fungicide benomyl. Dr. Evans is a plant pathologist with Alberta Agriculture.

He reports that in field trials carried out by Alberta Agriculture personnel at 15 sites in west-central Alberta in 1981, canola yield increases ranged from 168 to more than 1400 kg/ha when benomyl was applied by aircraft at the rate of 1.12 kg of product per hectare to Altex canola crops that were in the one-third-bloom stage. He also says that in similar trials involving Candle, the level of disease was reduced but there was no apparent yield increase.

While yield increase figures are not available for some 10,000 hectares of Polish and Argentine canola varieties that were sprayed with benomyl in central and west-central Alberta last year, Dr. Evans says that extension personnel reported that evaluations of disease control and yield increases by farmers ranged from good to excellent.

Further information on the sclerotinia situation in specific areas of the province can be obtained from district agriculturists.

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July 11, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OILSEED PRICE OUTLOOK

The cash flow from canola is expected to be better than that for either wheat or barley.

Les Lyster, grain marketing economist with Alberta Agriculture, reports that both canola exports and the crush are expected to increase during the 1983-84 crop year and that domestic usage will probably be around 950,000 tonnes. However, as usual, the crush rate will depend upon the availability of supplies, crush margins, etc.

Canola exports are likely to increase to the 1.35 million tonne level, which would leave carryover stocks in July 1984 of about 725,000 tonnes. Although they would be slightly above the current year's level, a carryover of this size would still be well below those of 1979 to 1981.

Although canola futures have declined by about $25 per tonne since the spring, Mr. Lyster does not expect prices to decline much below their current level of around $300 per tonne, basis the November contact. However, he does expect the basis level to have widened by harvesting time to between $45 and $55 per tonne. Hence, country elevator bids are expected to be mainly in the $245 to $255 per tonne range by harvesting time. "After that" says Mr. Lyster, "prices should begin to rise slowly to around $270 to $280 per tonne by February-March 1984."

According to Mr. Lyster, there is more uncertainty than usual this year about canola prices because the Crow Rate issue and the related issues of oil and meal freight rates east of Thunder Bay have not yet been resolved. He says the timing and method of resolving these issues will have an important impact on crushing margins and on the viability of the Western crushing industry.

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Oilseed Price Outlook (cont'd)

American soybean carryover stocks on September 1, 1983 are projected to have reached a record 440 million bushels, which would be well above the September, 1982 carryover of 266 million bushels. And the U.S. 1983 soybean crop is expected to be around 2 billion bushels or 11 per cent below that of 1982. Mr. Lyster points out that a crop of this size would result in 1983-84 soybean supplies of about 2.46 billion bushels or 3 per cent lower than the record 1982-83 supplies.

The above article is based on information that was available in June, 1983.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NO DIOXINS IN 2,4-D

Many people still think that 2,4-D contains dioxins and some think that the use of 2,4-D is banned in Alberta. Neither is the case, according to Alberta Agriculture's pesticide issues coordinator, Dr. Moe Hussain.

He explains that when dioxins were found in 2,4-D products a few years ago, the federal government asked all the 2,4-D manufacturers to remove them. The manufacturers were so cooperative that the federal government did not have to ban the use of any 2,4-D products. Since then Agriculture Canada has been monitoring 2,4-D products to make sure that none contains dioxins.

Dr. Hussain says that 2,4-D is used in such products as Killex, Weedex, 2,4-D Amine 500, Estemine 500 2,4-D and the Dandelion Bar, and that it is an excellent herbicide. It has also had a good safety record over the 40 or more years that it has been in use.

Dr. Hussain also says that 2,4-D products will not cause poisoning, but that both users and bystanders should avoid any exposure to them because the petroleum solvents contained in them can cause headaches and diarrhea. When these symptoms occur, they usually last for about 24 hours, but they do not cause any permanent health damage.

According to Dr. Hussain, some people have associated the dioxins that used to be found in 2,4-D with the one that used to be found in 2,4,5-T. Although this herbicide is a close relation of 2,4-D, the dioxin that was found in it was over 15,000 times more hazardous than the dioxins that were in 2,4-D. Known as TCDD, the 2,4,5-T dioxin can cause a skin disease in people and induce birth defects in rats, neither of which is the case with the dioxins that were in 2,4-D.

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No Dioxins In 2,4-D (cont'd)

As with 2,4-D, the federal government required the manufacturers of 2,4,5-T to remove TCDD from their products. This they have done, but products containing 2,4,5-T are not being used in Alberta because of the difficulty of obtaining them.

Dr. Hussain says "The fact that this excellent herbicide is not on the market in this province has created serious problems for farmers who want to control brush in their fields and pastures. No other product has been found that can do as good a job as 2,4,5-T and farmers are really frustrated".

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLEAVERS – A SERIOUS WEED FOR CANOLA GROWERS

The annual weed, cleavers, is of particular concern to canola growers because its seeds are so similar to those of canola that it is virtually impossible to separate the two and because the trailing bristly nature of the plants makes the handling of contaminated canola crops difficult. Canola seed that is contaminated with cleavers will be down graded.

Cleavers grows in damp, moist soils, such as are found in cultivated fields; under and around shrubbery and in gardens, lawns and wooded areas. Its trailing stem is four-sided with each corner bearing a row of stiff downward-pointing bristles, which occasionally cling together, giving the stem a sticky feeling. The leaves grow in groups of six to eight whorls along the entire length of the stem. Each leaf is two to five cm long and has a rough surface. The whitish-green flowers of this weed are borne on slender stalks that arise in groups of four to nine from the upper leaf axil.

Peter Funk, district agriculturist at Red Deer, says the cultural methods that are recommended for controlling cleavers are the same as those recommended for other annual weeds. They include an early, shallow cultivation to encourage the seeds to germinate and a tillage operation to destroy the young seedlings.

Mr. Funk suggests that those interested in trying to control cleavers with chemicals should contact the district agriculturist.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUPPRESSING FAIRY RINGS

Although there is still no known effective and simple way of eradicating fairy rings in lawns or on fairways and other grassed areas, it is possible to suppress the growth of the fungus that causes this condition, according to Dr. Ronald Howard, plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

Fairy rings are either circular or semi-circular variable-sized patches of dead grass that are usually surrounded by an outer ring of dark green grass. In the fall and during a period of wet weather, tan-colored toadstools can be seen growing in the dark green grass. Because they produce spores that spread the fungus, they should be picked and destroyed.

"The fungus that causes fairy rings", says Dr. Howard, "forms a thick white mat of fungal growth which eventually prevents any moisture from reaching the roots of the grass, thereby causing it to die off. However, in very wet weather it is possible to have dark green circular areas of grass with no patches of dead grass in the centre. In such cases the condition has not yet progressed to the point where the fungal mat has strangled the grass. The dark green areas of grass and the dark green rings around patches of dead grass are due to the release of nitrogen by the dying roots of the strangled grass or by the decomposing fungal mat or both". Dr. Howard says fairy rings are rarely seen in turf that is less than five years old.

Since dehydration is the main cause of fairy ring damage, one method of minimizing it if the ring is small is to pierce the soil repeatedly in and around the dark green ring to a depth of six inches or more with a garden fork. This will allow water to penetrate the thick fungal mat.

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Suppressing Fairy Rings (cont'd)

Another method is to punch holes that are about three inches apart, a quarter to an inch in diameter and more than a foot deep in the dead grass and in the dark green ring. Then attach a tree feeding lance to a regular garden hose and force water into the holes. Dr. Howard recommends watering the area frequently for a month or more during warm weather or about every two days during a dry spell. And he recommends fertilizing the grass regularly with a nitrogen fertilizer that is suitable for turf. Although the above procedures may not eliminate the fairy ring fungus, they will prevent it from killing the grass.

When only a few fairy rings are present, Dr. Howard says it may be practical in some cases to remove the green ring of grass, plus 18 inches of turf on either side. He stresses that great care should be taken to avoid dropping any of the turf or soil on the rest of the grass. Then the soil in the area from which the turf was taken should be removed to a depth of a least 18 inches and replaced by fresh top soil, which can be either returfed or seeded.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAKING JAMS AND JELLIES WITH LESS SUGAR

Making jams and jellies with less sugar has become increasingly popular in the last few years.

According to Alberta Agriculture's regional food and nutrition specialist, Cathy Sinnott, there are several ways to cut down the sugar content of these products, the most obvious of which is to reduce the amount of sugar in the recipe. However, she points out that because the sugar, in combination with the pectin, plays an important role in the structure of both jams and jellies, a reduction in the amount of sugar used can result in a softer gell, and in extreme cases, in a syrup. This means that the sugar can be reduced slightly if the person making the jam or jelly is prepared to accept a softer product.

"Another way that the sugar content of jams and jellies can be reduced," says Ms. Sinnott, "is to use the commercial pectin product called Slim Set. It was specifically developed for this purpose, and the package contains both instructions and recipes."

Ms. Sinnott also points out that there are recipes that are designed for sugarless jams and jellies. These products contain an artificial sweetener and usually include a gelling agent such as pectin or gelatin. However, because sugar is crucial to the keeping quality of jams and jellies, those made without any sugar will not keep in a refrigerator for more than four to six weeks.

Then there is a new low methoxyl pectin on the market which is used with calcium ions instead of sugar to form the gel structure of jams and jellies. Ms. Sinnott says it is not widely available, but that it can be found in some health food stores.

Anyone interested in traditional jams and jellies will find a new federal publication called "Jams, Jellies and Other Preserves" worth obtaining. It outlines the techniques used for making traditional jams and jellies and includes recipes that do not call for the addition of pectin. It also contains a section on problems that are often encountered when making jam and jelly.

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Making Jams and Jellies with Less Sugar (cont'd)

Although people are now questioning the traditional high sugar products from the point of view of health, Mrs. Sinnott says they are perfectly acceptable as long as they are eaten in moderation.

Copies of "Jams, Jellies and Other Preserves" can be obtained from the Communications Branch, Agriculture Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0C7.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CROP CONDITIONS IN ALBERTA

Spraying operations, and to a lesser extent, haying operations, have been seriously hampered by an excessive amount of rain in many areas of central and northern Alberta.

Marilyn Johnson, statistician with Alberta Agriculture, reports that the portion of the province that has suffered the most from excessive moisture lies between Lacombe and Barrhead and west of Vegreville. She says that it has been impossible for many farmers whose fields are in low lying areas to spray, and that dockage is expected to be higher than usual as a result of the very poor spraying conditions.

Although the early July rain benefited crops in southern regions of the province, it was not so welcome in central and northern Alberta where cereal crops in low lying areas started to turn yellow from too much moisture. However, if these areas receive 10 to 14 days of warm dry weather, yields are unlikely to be affected to any extent, Ms. Johnson says.

Unfortunately, the very northern areas of Fort Vermilion and High Level, where moisture was badly needed, did not get any of the recent rain.

But, on a provincial basis, crops are reported to be in good condition with most of the cereals either in the shot blade or the heading stage. Canola crops are in bloom and fall-seeded crops are in the early dough stage.

According to Ms. Johnson, haying operations are well underway in southern Alberta, but dryland hay yields are below normal, and the quality of the hay is only fair. Haying and silage operations are also undeway in the remainder of Alberta, but, again, hay yields are expected to be below normal in both central and northern parts of the province.

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Crop Conditions In Alberta (cont'd)

Ms. Johnson reports that hail storms were frequently reported in the first week of July, and that they varied in intensity from very light to severe. She notes that most district offices in southern Alberta reported hail storms and that a hail swath five miles wide and 20 miles long was reported in the Taber area. It damaged crops, irrigation systems, buildings and trees. Other hail storms occurred in the Oyen and Legal areas, with the latter causing extensive crop damage.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LONTREL REGISTRATION EXPECTED

Dow Chemical Canada Inc. is expecting the herbicide Lontrel 360 to be registered by the federal government upon the completion of two tests that are now underway. Lontrel 360 was developed to control Canada thistles in canola crops.

Dr. Moe Hussain, pesticide issues coordinator with Alberta Agriculture, reports that Dow Chemical has repeated all but one of the toxicology tests that had been conducted by the now discredited Industrial Biotest Inc. The toxicology test that still remains to be completed involves routine animal reproduction studies.

In the other test, which involves the field performance on Lontrel, the chemical was applied to 5,000 hectares of canola crops in Western Canada. And in Alberta Dow Chemical and Alberta Agriculture will be monitoring the performance and possible persistence of the chemical during the present growing season in nearly 500 fields.

Upon completion of the tests, Dow Chemical will forward the data to the federal government for an evaluation.

Dr. Hussain points out that although Lontrel is not yet registered in Canada, the active ingredient, 3-6 dichloropicolinic acid, has been registered for use in a number of countries, which include France, Italy and the United Kingdom. He says "Lontrel is not registered for use in Canada because our requirements for pesticide registration are much more stringent than those in many other countries."

Denise Maurice, supervisor of weed research with Alberta Agriculture, believes that the registration of Lontrel will be of great benefit to farmers who, at the present time, have to resort to summerfallowing when they have Canada thistle-infested canola crops. "While summerfallowing only suppresses the thistles, one application of Lontrel will control them for one to two years," she says.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESPONSE OF STEERS TO TRACE MINERALS ON PASTURE

by Ross Gould, Beef Cattle and Sheep Branch, Alberta Agriculture

The nutrition section of the beef cattle and sheep branch of Alberta Agriculture has found that over 80 per cent of the forage samples they analyzed were marginal to deficient in the trace minerals copper and zinc.

These two trace minerals are essential in enzyme systems which are involved with the growth of bones, hair and muscle protein as well as in the metabolism of vitamin A and the hemoglobin in red blood cells. Deficiencies can result in nutritional anemia, bleached hair, bone and joint weaknesses, lameness, hoof problems, nervous disorders, stunted growth and problems in reproduction. With this in mind, the nutrition and special projects section of the beef cattle and sheep branch began a cooperative trial with the grazing reserves section of Alberta Energy and Natural Resources on the Thorhild Grazing Reserve. The purpose of the trial was to find out whether the provision of a trace mineral fortified-salt would increase the gains of yearling steers on pasture.

Grazing Reserve Trial

In each of the past two years (1981 and 1982) yearling steers from patrons were allocated randomly to two pastures. Steers in the control pasture received cobalt-iodized salt and a range mineral containing equal parts of calcium and phosphorus (1:1 mineral). Steers in the trace mineral pasture received a cobalt iodized-salt which was also fortified with copper, zinc, manganese and selenium. Steers in the trace mineral pasture also received the 1:1 mineral.

Twenty-five steers were allocated to each treatment group in 1981 and 35 to each group in 1982, and each steer had access to 3.2 acres of renovated pasture which contained native grass species plus clovers. The pasture conditions in early 1982 were

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Response of Steers to Trace Minerals on Pasture (cont'd)

dry, and gains in that year were lower than normal for the steers on both the control and trace mineral pastures. To test whether there were differences in the pastures themselves the control and trace mineral treatments were switched between the two pastures in the second year.

Results:

An analysis of results for the two years showed that over the four-month grazing season, the steers on the control pasture gained 197.2 (plus/minus 19.5) pounds, while those on the trace mineral pasture gained 216.9 (plus/minus 19.87) pounds. While there was a difference of 19.7 pounds (10%) between the gains of cattle on trace mineral and the control pastures, a preliminary analysis of the data did not show a statistical significance. As a consequence, these results should be considered as preliminary. The analysis of the results suggest that the gains of yearling steers on pasture will also be affected by the type of growing season and individual pasture differences, even when the pastures are located side by side. The extra gain obtained by providing trace mineral supplements on pastures will also probably be affected by these factors. Nevertheless, the extra cost per animal of trace mineral fortified-salt is so small, in comparison with cobalt-iodized salt, that a response of even one-tenth of that shown in our results would still be profitable.

Since an analysis of forage samples taken from the pastures showed that they were either marginal or deficient in copper, zinc, and selenium, a response to the trace mineral fortified salt was expected.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIREBLIGHT AND ITS CONTROL

When the leaves, twigs and/or small branches of a healthy tree suddenly wilt and turn brown in a few days, the cause could be fireblight.

Dr. Ieuan Evans, plant pathologist with Alberta Agriculture, reports that fireblight attacks only trees and shrubs that belong to the rose family, and that the most susceptible of these are mountain ash, crabapple, apple and pear trees and raspberry bushes. In some instances the berries on a mountain ash tree and the immature apples on an apple or crabapple tree will turn brown or black and droplets of bacterial "ooze" frequently appear on the fruit during humid weather. Plum and cherry trees and saskatoon bushes are seldom attacked by fireblight, and roses have never been known to be attacked.

According to Dr. Evans, weather conditions in Alberta during the last few weeks have been favorable to the spread of this disease. And he says that the only thing that can be done now for damaged trees or shrubs is to remove the infected twigs and/or small branches. He also says that occasionally a tree that is badly infected will suddenly die.

He recommends removing infected twigs and branches with a diameter of less than 2.5 cm (one inch) as soon as they are noticed. He also recommends cutting them off at least 15 cm (6 inches) below the infected area. However, branches with a diameter that is greater than 2.5 cm should not be removed until the dormant season to reduce the chances of spreading the disease and to avoid stimulating the growth of side branches and suckers both of which are very susceptible to fireblight. In the meantime, all the infected side branches on a large branch should be taken off.

Also to reduce the possibility of spreading the infection, the cutting parts of all pruning tools should be dipped in a one to nine solution of household bleach and water

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Fireblight And Its Control (cont'd)

between each cut. An alternative would be to dip them in a one to 20 solution of Lysol and water, in undiluted alcohol or in boiling water.

Dr. Evans recommends applying a pruning paint, available from most garden centres, to all surfaces that have been cut during the growing season. However, this is not necessary when the pruning is done during the dormant season.

Finally, all infected wood that is removed from a diseased tree should be either put into a garbage container or immediately burned.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAINTAINING THE HIGH QUALITY OF SWEET CORN

People who sell hydrocooled Alberta sweet corn are justified in charging a premium for their product, but those who sell non-hydrocooled corn that has been sitting out in the sun are not.

This is the opinion of Phil Dixon, district agriculturist at Rocky Mountain House, who points out that sweet corn is one of the most perishable crops that is produced in Alberta. He says, "It takes just a few hours of careless handling at harvesting time to ruin all the hard work that has gone into its production". Sweet corn has been specifically bred for its sugar content, and its quality is determined by the amount of sugar its contains.
Mr. Dixon says, "Sweet corn that contains no sugar is virtually no different to grain corn, which is used for animal feed."

To prevent the sugar in sweet corn from turning into starch, the corn has to be hydrocooled as soon as it has been harvested. Hydrocooling involves immersing the corn in an ice bath to remove the field heat. According to Mr. Dixon, the corn must be immersed in an ice bath within an hour of its having been harvested, and a product temperature of from 2 ° to 5° C must be maintained during the entire marketing process.

Alberta's hot sunny days and cool nights are responsible for the very high quality of its sweet corn. And under favorable growing conditions, the sugar content of sweet corn produced in the irrigated areas of southern Alberta, the Edmonton area and along the Peace River valley reaches its maximum potential.

Mr. Dixon reports that Alberta growers planted almost 650 acres of sweet corn for the fresh market last year.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOW TO SELECT AND WORK WITH A PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR

Do you require a professional advisor?

According to Ron Cuthbert, supervisor of the records and analysis section with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, the most popular avenue for searching out professional services continues to be by "word of mouth". Ask your friends and associates who is available and how they would rate their services. However, do not overlook other professionals whom you may have previously contacted for other types of work or work in a similar area. And contact professional organizations for information on the services they provide.

Once a farm manager has decided on one or two professional advisors that appear to "fit the bill" — i.e. are qualified to deal with his questions -- the next step should be a personal visit.

At this first visit, find out:

- What are the services he provides.
- What is his background and experience — is much of his work connected with agriculture?
- What is his interest and knowledge of your business — ask some specific questions.
- Can he complete the task in the time required for your decision purposes.

When using the services of a professional, it is important to establish a good working relationship based on mutual trust. Although the professional advisor is working for you, the quality of his work will usually be better if you take the approach of working with him.

The importance of communication cannot be overemphasized. It is an important responsibility of both the farm manager and the professional advisor. Each must have a

- (cont'd) -

How to Select and Work with a Professional Advisor (cont'd)

clear understanding of what is expected. In concerns of major importance or very complicated matters, it is usual to communicate in writing. Written communications have the following advantages:

- They force the writer to analyze and organize his thoughts;
- They can go a long way towards eliminating misunderstandings;
- They give a lasting record of the discussions as they progress.

Be open and candid and keep other professionals, such as your lawyer, financial advisor and/or accountant, who is working on the same problem, informed as events unfold. A complete estate plan or father-son transfer, for example, often involves legal counsel, an accountant and financial advice from a credit institution.

Discussing each party's responsibilities is an important, ongoing process. These should be stated at the initial meeting and formally set down at the time the parties agree that the professional will act on behalf of the manager.

The responsibilities of the professional throughout negotiations are to:

- Explain his understanding of the job – problem, business, project, representation, etc.
- Provide, if possible, an initial recommendation regarding when to proceed with deadlines.
- Ensure confidence is respected.

At the time of the final agreement for action, the professional advisor should set out the charges per hour and the approximate cost of the total project. He should also state the consulting staff that will be involved and he should feel free to give an opinion or to qualify results.

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How to Select and Work with a Professional Advisor (cont'd)

Mr. Cuthbert believes that a farm manager also has some definite responsibilities that should be considered throughout the entire process of negotiating and working with an advisor. They include:

- Being honest with his professionals and placing trust in their advice and abilities. He should also accept their results and encourage their opinions. But, as the farm manager, he must make the final decision.
- Keeping the professional informed of all pertinent changes.
- Being aware of fees and times estimated, and trying to be reasonable in expectations. Since good quality work requires time for completion, a professional advisor should be given lots of lead time when possible.
- Being aware of remedies for non-performance by a professional advisor and ensuring a written documentation of all major dealings is kept.

Mr. Cuthbert says selecting an advisor is a major management decision, and that Alberta Agriculture's representative in your area can help you to define your objectives and to set out criteria for choosing a professional advisor.

The farm business management branch publishes a publication entitled "How to Select an Accountant for Maximum Benefit" (Agdex 818-14), as well as a great deal of useful information on financial management and business contracts.

For further information, contact your local district office or the Farm Business Management Branch at Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO.

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AGRICULTURE FEATURED IN CHILDREN'S TELEVISION SERIES

***Jesse (Aunt Harriet's niece) talks to a farm implement dealer** to find out more about his work. This is one of the visits Jesse makes to agriculture community workers in the newly produced children's television series, "Harriet's Magic Hats".*

People in Agriculture - their roles, responsibilities, job locations and their relationships to other members of the community - are highlighted in eight of a 13-part children's television series called "Harriet's Magic Hats." It is the second such series that has been produced by Access Alberta, and the agricultural section in the present series has been financially supported by Alberta Agriculture, which along with Alberta Education, also provided consulting services.

The purpose of "Harriet's Magic Hats" is to introduce children to a variety of community workers, including agricultural workers, by showing them at work and by showing how their work relates to the community as a whole. Each of the 13 parts is 15 minutes long and is accompanied by a teacher's guide.

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Agriculture Featured in Children's Television Series (cont'd)

Jesse, Aunt Harriet's niece, and Ralph, a puppet, are the main characters in the series. In the agricultural parts, Jesse uses her Aunt Harriet's "magic" hats to visit a farm machinery dealer, an irrigation specialist, a sheep farmer, a market gardener, a vegetable processor, a pasta maker and a district home economist.

"Putting time and money into film and video productions for schools is one of the ways we intend to make the public aware of agriculture", says Doug Pettit of Alberta Agriculture's communications division. "We will continue to work closely with school boards and Alberta Education to produce more visuals for different grade levels over the next few years".

Mr. Pettit reports that Access has already sold this second series of "Harriet's Magic Hats" to the British Columbia Ministry of Education and the Allegheny Educational Broadcast Council and that TV Ontario is seriously thinking about purchasing it.

The tapes of "Harriet's Magic Hats" can be borrowed, free of charge, from the Film Library, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H EXPRESSIONS SCHEDULED FOR OLDS COLLEGE

4-H members and leaders from across the province will be heading for Olds College, Olds, on August 3 to take part in the 4-H Expressions.

Sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, 4-H Expressions is a seminar for all 4-H members and leaders, and the 200 delegates that are expected to attend will learn and share new ideas and skills that will help them with their club work in the coming years. Expressions is unique, in that it is the only provincial program in which both leaders and members attend as delegates and take part in the same sessions.

While at the seminar, the delegates will participate in workshops on such topics as: Remaking Last Year's Fashions; Fast and Nutritious Breakfasts; Careers and Values; Living and Working with Wildlife; Golfing; Communicating; Gardening; and Money Management.

The release of 500 helium filled balloons to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Canadian 4-H Council will be one of the highlights of the program. Each delegate will write his or her name on a postcard, attach it to a balloon and let it float away. The card asks the finder to fill in his or her name and address and mail the card to the 4-H branch in Edmonton. Anyone who returns a card will receive a prize.

On the final evening of the seminar, Simplicity pattern company's fall wardrobe will be unveiled at a fashion show. Delegates will model the new fashions from Simplicity as well as some of their own creations. The fashion show will commence at 7:30 p.m. in the Olds College gymnasium on August 4, and the public is invited to attend.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOINT FIELD DAY!

Tours of both federal and provincial research plots will be a feature of a field day that is being sponsored by Alberta Agricultre's field crops branch and Agriculture Canada's research station at Lacombe on August 11 from one p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Visitors will see the latest in variety development and disease control in barley, oats, spring wheat, winter wheat, spring triticale and winter triticale. Dr. Jim Helm and Dr. Don Salmon of Alberta Agriculture and Dr. Martin Kaufman and Dr. Lu Peining of Agriculture Canada are the scientists that are working in this area.

Weed control and agronomic research in spring and winter cereals is being conducted by Dr. Ashley O'Sullivan and Dr. Claude Caldwell and Dr. S.S. Malhi of Agriculture Canada and Felix Mederick of Alberta Agriculture. While the development and evaluation of perennial and annual forage crops is under the direction of Dr. Vern Baron and Dr. Bill Berkenkamp of Agriculture Canada and Felix Mederick of Alberta Agriculture.

For more information contact Bill Witbeck, Alberta Agriculture at 782-4641 or Richard Houghton, Agriculture Canada at 782-3316.

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CROPS FIELD DAY AT ALBERTA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE

A tour of weed science, plant pathology and entomology research plots will be the highlight of a crops field day that is scheduled to take place at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville starting at one p.m. on August 4.

In the plant sciences wing of the centre, the scientists are conducting in-house and field experiments to obtain information on the cultural and biological control of weeds, diseases and insects. This wing also provides a diagnostic and advisory service to the public in the areas of weeds and their control, suspected chemical damage, plant diseases and insect damage.

This year Drs. Fayaz Qureshi, Paul Sharma and John O'Donovan have established about 3,000 field plots where they are studying such newly registered and experimental herbicides as Glean, Lontrel, Hoegrass II, Poast, etc. They are also studying the tolerance levels of new cereal crop varieties to registered herbicides; the tolerance levels of rotational crops to herbicide carryovers; the biology and control of economically serious weeds like scentless chamomile, hempnettle and smart weed; and the competition in field crops provided by wild oats, tartary buckwheat, smartweed, stinkweed, green foxtail, volunteer cereals and volunteer canola.

Plant pathologists, Drs. Prem Kharbanda and Gil Flores, are studying the control of seedling blight in canola crops and the control of root rot in lentils, wheat and barley. The scientists in this section are also investigating the resistance of alfalfa varieties to alfalfa sickness and the spread of alfalfa sickness. And entomologist, Dr. Helen Liu, is assessing the impact of flea beetle damage and root maggot feeding in canola crops.

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Crops Field Day At Alberta Environmental Centre (cont'd)

In addition to the research plot tour, the crops field day will feature an excellent collection of 80 species of weeds. They will be displayed in a "weed garden" and will include the more common and some of the new weeds that are found in Alberta. There will also be a display of research plot equipment and a demonstration by Marilyn Steiner on the biological control of insects on plants grown in green houses and indoors.

In the event of bad weather, the scientists will be making their presentations in the Alberta Environmental Centre.

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AGRI-NEWS

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July 25, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLEBISCITE ON AN ALBERTA SUGAR BEET MARKETING BOARD PLANNED

The Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council plans to hold a plebiscite by mail on the establishment of an Alberta Sugar Beet Marketing Board. The plebiscite was requested by the Alberta Sugar Beet Growers Association.

Tom Sydness, general manager of the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council, says all sugar beet producers who are eligible to vote must register with the council on or before August 24 in order to receive a ballot. An eligible producer is defined as a person who produces sugar beets and who held a contract in 1982 with the Alberta Sugar Company for the marketing of sugar beets. However, no producer can vote as a representative of a contract that is already being represented by another producer. In other words, when more than one person is involved in a contract, only one is eligible to vote. And no producer is eligible to vote more than once, regardless of the number of contracts he is party to.

Mr. Sydness says registration forms and information are being mailed out to all producers on or before July 25, and that any eligible producer who does not receive a form should contact the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council office before the August 24 deadline.

And if anyone has a question regarding the plebiscite or the proposed Alberta Sugar Marketing Board, he should contact one of the directors of the Alberta Sugar Beet Growers Association or the Returning Officer, Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6 (Telephone: 427-2164).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA BEE A REALITY!

by Donald MacDonald
Provincial Apiarist, Alberta Agriculture

Thanks to the Alberta Bee Breeding Project that was funded by Alberta Agriculture's Farming for the Future Program, the province now has its own honey bee, known as the Alberta Bee.

It all started back in 1978 when the Alberta Beekeepers Association approached Alberta Agriculture for funds to improve the province's honey bee breeding stock through the production of bee strains that were more suitable than the present strains to our climatic conditions. A year earlier Canada's professional apiculturists had recommended that honey bee breeding be given the highest priority in apiculture research.

The Alberta Bee Breeding Project got underway in the spring of 1979 under the direction of Dr. Tibor Szabo of Agriculture Canada's research station in Beaverlodge. He and his staff set up selection sites in apiaries at Falher, Spruce Grove, Brooks and Scandia, where, each year, they selected the queens from the best performing hives and used their offspring to requeen other test hives.

The project has now run its five-year course and has produced two distinct lines of the Alberta Bee — the Peace strain and the Prairie strain. The former has been selected for northern regions of the province, while the latter has been selected for southern Alberta. The northern strain has produced up to 162 per cent more honey than conventional honeybees, while the southern strain has produced up to 111 per cent more honey. Dr. Szabo has demonstrated that the bees of each strain are docile and have good disease resistance and wintering ability.

The Alberta bee is now being evaluated on selected farms under Farming for the Futures On-Farm Demonstration Program. And the agricultural colleges in the Olds and Fairview are planning to raise queens from the Beaverlodge stock.

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Alberta Bee A Reality (cont'd)

Last year Dr. Szabo released more than 200 queens to specially chosen Alberta beekeepers for testing, and even though this process may be repeated again this August, queens are expected to be readily available in the near future to Alberta beekeepers through the colleges. It is also expected that this new breeding stock will eventually be taken over by provincial bee breeders and result in a better honey industry for Alberta's commercial beekeeping community.

Up to now Alberta beekeepers have traditionally purchased package bees each spring from California to produce their annual 20 million-pound honey crop. With this procedure, the bees are killed each fall and the equipment stored until the following spring. However, rising costs for package bees, the uncertainty of California's spring weather, which can affect the quality of its bees, and the ever present threat of importing foreign bee pests prompted researchers and Alberta beekeepers to investigate the possibility of overwintering their bees.

Although the province still imports 125,000 two-pound packages of California bees each spring, at a cost that exceeds $3 million a year, an increasing number of beekeepers are carrying their hives through the winter. In fact, 25 per cent of Alberta's 160,000 hives are now being overwintered here.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A PICLORAM RESIDUE CAN INJURE SUSCEPTIBLE PLANTS

Picloram, which is sold under the trade names of Tordon 202 C and Tordon, sometimes gets into garden soil via a load of top soil, contaminated water or manure from cattle that have grazed on picloram-treated plants.

Tordon 202 C also contains 2,4-D and is widely used by farmers on wheat and barley crops, while Tordon contains only picloram and is registered for use only by a licensed pesticide applicator on non-agricultural land.

When a low concentration of picloram has accidentally been introduced into garden soil, the owner should not plant potatoes, tomatoes, beans, sunflowers or peas. He should try growing crops like corn, rutabagas, cauliflowers and cabbages, which are more tolerant. Radishes, cucumbers, lettuce and onions are slightly more tolerant than potatoes and tomatoes.

Rudy Esau, weed control specialist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, reports that replanting studies at the center and at Olds College suggest that highly sensitive crops like potatoes and fababeans (which are similar to broad beans) should not be planted in soil that has been treated with Tordon 202 C for two years following the treatment. And he says that observations have indicated that the same holds true for snap beans.

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A Picloram Residue Can Injure Susceptible Plants (cont'd)

How do susceptible plants react to a picloram residue in the soil? At a low concentration, they will develop shoots that have a club-like head, rather like a fern shoot just before it opens out. And their leaves will be cupped downwards, leathery and thick and they will usually be stunted. The shoots will often be elongated. At a slightly lower concentration, picloram causes the cells at the back of the leaf tips of susceptible plants to thicken and form dark spots. The tips will become elongated and the leaves will often display abnormal veins and puckering between the veins.

Anyone who suspects that his plants may be suffering from the effects of a picloram residue in the soil should send a sample of the plants and the soil to his regional crop laboratory.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOSQUITO CONTROL ON LIVESTOCK

The present very severe mosquito outbreak is not just causing problems for people. It is also causing serious problems for livestock, especially in north-central Alberta where recent rains have left more water lying on the surface of the ground than has been seen for a decade!

What can farmers do to protect their cattle and horses against mosquitoes? According to the head of the Alberta Environmental Centre's crop protection group, Hugh Philip, there are four chemicals that are registered for protecting beef cattle against mosquitoes, but only one of them is practical for range cattle. Vapona, Pyrethrin and Pyron all come in ready-to-use sprays that must be applied to animals on an individual basis, and the protection they provide lasts for only a day or less.

The other product, Malathion, can be mixed, according to label instructions, and applied on an individual basis or it can be used in a backrubber. It can also be sprayed with ground equipment or by aircraft directly onto a pasture to reduce the mosquito population without the beef cattle having to be removed.

All the above ready-to-use sprays can also be used on dairy cattle, but Malathion must not be used because of the possibility of milk contamination.

The same ready-to-use sprays can be used on horses in addition to Methoxychlor. As with cattle, the ready-to-use sprays will provide about a day's protection, while Methoxychlor should give about two days of relief from mosquitoes.

Mr. Philip advises farmers against spraying bodies of surface water in an attempt to reduce mosquito populations. He points out that it would be useless unless the spraying were done on a district basis, and that, in the case of some chemicals, there are regulations governing the use of sprayed water for livestock.

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Mosquito Control On Livestock (cont'd)

Dr. Bruce Taylor of the Alberta Environment's pesticide chemicals branch says the present mosquito outbreak could last until the middle of August if there is water lying on the ground towards the end of July when the current batch of mosquito eggs will be ready to hatch. And he believes that the outbreak will get worse before it gets better because there is another species of mosquito which has not yet made its appearance.

Dr. Taylor also says that the mosquito outbreak was caused by the recent heavy rains. He explains that mosquito eggs can remain dormant for as long as seven years if hatching conditions are not favorable. This means that when conditions become favorable, mosquitoes will emege from eggs that have accumulated over the unfavorable years. Dr. Taylor also points out that heavy egg laying last year contributed to this year's severe infestation, and that if we had not had the recent rains, many of them would have remained dormant until there was enough moisture for them to hatch. And he says that there is no known method of destroying mosquito eggs.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COPING WITH HIGH MOISTURE SILAGE MATERIAL

Although an excessive amount of moisture is not usually a problem when making grass or legume silage in Alberta, it is almost certain to be a problem in many parts of the province this year.

Silage material is considered to be excessively wet when its moisture content is 70 per cent or higher. The ideal moisture content is between 60 and 65 per cent. However, with this year's very lush growth much of the forage that is cut directly into a silo is likely to have a moisture content of over 70 per cent.

Excessively moist silage will dilute the lactic acid, which is the preservative that is produced by the carbohydrates (sugar and starch) during the fermentation process. And it will produce undesirable chemical compounds like acetic and butyric acid, which give the silage a bad odor and taste. When the lactic acid is weakened it produces poor quality silage that spoils easily.

If the moisture content of silage is more than 72 per cent, seepage will occur and an excessive amount of seepage may cause a loss of nutrients. Also, the dry matter intake of the silage by cattle and sheep will be reduced if it has a high moisture content and it will be more difficult to transport.

A reasonably accurate estimate of the moisture content of silage can be made by the "squeeze ball" method. It entails pressing and rolling a ball of the chopped forage between your hands for about half a minute. If the ball keeps its shape when you open your hands and your hands are wet, the material has a moisture content of higher than 75 per cent. If the ball keeps its shape but no moisture comes away from it, the moisture content of the silage is in the range of from 60 to 70 per cent. A moisture content of below 60 per cent is indicated by the ball immediately breaking apart when it is released.

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Coping With High Moisture Silage Material (cont'd)

What can be done to lower the moisture content of silage? The head of Alberta Agriculture's special projects section, Ross Gould, says the forage should be swathed and well wilted before it is ensiled. He points out that, in addition to lowering the moisture content of the material, wilting increases its sugar content which helps to improve the quality of the silage. However, if the moisture content of this year's lush forage crops cannot be brought down by wilting because of poor weather, Mr. Gould recommends mixing ground grain with the silage. If the moisture content of the silage is around 80 per cent, ground grain should be added in the ratio of about 15 per cent. An alternative might be to add chopped hay or straw, depending upon the quality of silage desired.

An Alberta Agriculture publication entitled "Silage in Alberta" (Agdex 120/52-1) contains more information on silage making as well as information on additives and preservatives and the various types of silos. It can be obtained from district agriculturists or by writing to the Publications Office, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REFLECTIONS ON FARM MACHINERY PROGRESS

by Glen Werner
Senior District Agriculturist, Stettler

I observed some interesting trends at this year's Western Canada Farm Progress Show. Farm machinery, for example, seems to have reached its optimum size with the emphasis now being placed on "fine tuning" existing models.

In the cultivator category, where there were numerous styles and designs, I noticed a trend away from a walking beam axle to the use of wheels near the back and a castor wheel in front. This design change apparently gives better depth control by keeping the cultivator more level with the ground and it also reduces trash plugging. One company had a cultivator that flexed two ways – a very innovative idea.

In the airseeder category, some of the original models were not there, but there were many others. Such things as depth control, even distribution, packing, serviceability and operator visibility were among the things being emphasized in many of these. One American company was featuring a double disc opener tool bar with packer wheels and an air flow system for distributing seed and fertilizer. It was a very sleek design.

I observed some very positive trends among the sprayers. They included boom adjustability, large capacity lines, low profile tanks, herbicide premix and injection systems, high volume pumps, dampened castor wheels, markers, monitors and quick - transport features. I wonder though whether these will all be replaced by low volume electrodyne systems or spinning discs in the not too distant future.

I also saw 42' to 50' swather units at the show. Although I wondered whether our fields could handle units of this size, I could not help being impressed with some of the

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innovative techniques they embodied. An example might be the detachable self-propelled power units I saw which can tow the 42' cutting bar behind for road transportation safety. And several of the swathers were completely hydraulically driven and controlled.

I also found the Western Farm Progress Show's section which featured new ideas extremely interesting. A 4,500-bushel bin that can be erected in less than an hour, which costs less than 70 ¢ per bushel and which can be reused many times was among the things that impressed me here. A jack frame which had been invented by some fellows from Kelsy, Alberta, took the first prize for inventions. It makes a "Jack-all" jack a very powerful and safe piece of equipment to use for all kinds of jacking and support jobs. Every farm should have two!

Among the other pieces of equipment that incorporated new ideas were high efficiency truck hoists, angular pick-ups, swath dividers, grain handling systems, crop control reels, sprayer modifications and potato diggers.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GARDEN PESTS AND THEIR CONTROL

Tuber flea beetles, maggots and cabbage worms are among the garden pests that have been causing more problems than usual this summer, according to Alberta Agriculture's entomologist and pest control specialist, Michael Dolinski.

Tuber Flea Beetles

These tiny black beetles, which jump like fleas, are found on both potato and tomato leaves where they make small round holes. Although the beetles do not cause any significant damage to potato plants, their larvae feed on the tubers where they leave very small unsightly tunnels just below the skin surface. The tunnels are usually only noticed when the potatoes are pealed. And even though the potatoes are not badly damaged, the removal of the tunnels during pealing can result in considerable waste.

Mr. Dolinski says nothing can be done to prevent flea beetle damage at this time of the year. However, he advises anyone who has beetles on his or her potatoes this summer to treat next year's plants about every 10 days from the time that they emerge until about the middle of July with the appropriate insecticide. This will prevent a recurrence of the problem. He also says that there is no need to worry about flea beetles on tomato plants because they will not damage the plants or the fruit.

Maggots

Different species of these small white larvae feed on the roots of such vegetables as cauliflower, cabbage, broccoli, turnips and radishes. Typical damage to cauliflower, cabbage and broccoli takes the form of stunted and/or wilted plants. In the case of turnips and

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radishes, the maggots burrow into the underground parts of the plants. The only way to find out whether they are present is to pull one or two turnips or radishes and examine them.

All a person can do who has these maggots in the garden at this time of year is to drench the roots of the cauliflowers, cabbages, broccoli or turnips to a depth of three or four inches with Diazinon, Mr. Dolinski says.

Cabbage Worms

These small velvety green worms that have a faint yellowish line down their backs are the larvae of the white cabbage butterfly. They attack cauliflower and broccoli, but are really only a problem on cabbages. Holes in the outside leaves are usually the first sign of damage. However, if the larvae are not controlled, they will gradually start to eat the head of the cabbage.

Mr. Dolinski recommends dusting or spraying infested cabbage plants with a common garden insecticide that states on the label that it will control cabbage worms. And he warns against the use of cutworm dust to control cabbage worms because it will contaminate the cabbage heads.

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July 25, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEAVERLODGE FIELD DAY

Agriculture Canada's research station at Beaverlodge will be holding a forage field day on August 9. It is designed to give all those interested in forage crops an opportunity to exchange views and to participate in meaningful discussions.

Following is a list of the topics that will be covered.

- Forage Cultivation Performance in the Peace – Henry Najda
- Flowers, Bees and Legume Seeds – Dr. Daphne Fairey
- Quality and Quantity in Forages – Dr. Nigel Fairey
- Survival Potential of Forages – Dr. Jim McKenzie
- Forage Grasses for the Peace – Dr. Steve Bonin
- Forage Legumes for the Peace – Dr. Wendell Rice
- The Role of Forages in Soil Conservation – Arnold Hennig
- Weed Control in Forages – Dr. Lloyd Darwent
- Diseases Limiting Forage Crops – Dr. John Davidson

The field day will start at 9.30 a.m. and will include a field tour. Lunch will be provided free of charge.

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July 25, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANNING FRUIT WITHOUT SUGAR

by Catherine Sinnott
Regional Food and Nutrition Specialist, Alberta Agriculture

Consumers have become increasingly conscious of the amount of sugar in their diets over the past few years, particularly as it relates to processed foods. One way of reducing one's sugar intake would be to use more home-prepared food.

Since the sugar that is added to canned fruit only contributes to its flavor and texture and not to its actual preservation, the amount of sugar used can be reduced without affecting the safety of the end product. The sugar content can simply be reduced in accordance with the level of sweetness desired.

An alternative would be to omit the sugar entirely and to substitute boiled fruit juice or boiling water for the sugar syrup. Although this approach allows the unsweetened fruit flavor to predominate, the texture of the fruit will not be as firm as that of the sweetened product.

The fruit juice can be made by cooking some of the fruit in water and then straining off the juice, or a commercially prepared juice can be used. Canned pineapple juice, for example, complements most fruits, and unsweetened pineapple juice is a good choice for pears. A thin slice of lemon added to each jar will enhance the flavor of the fruit. An artificial sweetener can be added to the fruit before it is served if a sweeter product is desired.

An excellent reference book called "Canning Canadian Fruits and Vegetables" is available from the Communications Branch, Agriculture Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A OC7.

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July 25, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST FOR CARDSTON APPOINTED

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Shirley Myers, has announced the appointment of Sharon Cummins to the position of district home economist at Cardston.

Ms. Cummins was born in Edmonton and grew up in Calgary. She graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (home economics) in 1981, having majored in clothing and textiles.

In 1980 she worked with the home economics branch as a summer assistant in Barrhead. The following year she took her district home economist training at Lamont, and was appointed district home economist at Brooks in July, 1982. In December of that year she was transferred to the Drumheller office where she remained until her present appointment.

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AGRI-NEWS

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August 1, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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August 1, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1983 BERTHA ARMYWORM SITUATION IN ALBERTA

This year's Bertha armyworm damage to canola crops in Alberta is expected to occur in the Edmonton area, in the Barrhead area and possibly in the central and southern areas of the Peace River district.

This forecast is based on the results of a Bertha armyworm survey that was conducted by Dr. Helen Liu, field crops entomologist with Alberta Agriculture, and field staff at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville.

Dr. Liu reports that large numbers of Bertha armyworm larvae have been found northwest of Edmonton and in the county of Strathcona. And she urges canola growers in those areas to examine their fields carefully around the middle of August.

She says the central and northeastern regions of the province are generally free of these insects, and that the Bertha armyworm population in southern Alberta appears to be on the decline. However, she advises canola growers in the counties of Willow Creek, Vulcan and Lethbridge, which were in the vicinity of the 1982 infestation, to check their fields in mid-August. She expects late-seeded and re-seeded canola crops to be the most susceptible to injury. "Those that are harvested early will escape the main impact of armyworm feeding," she says.

To determine whether or not the chemical control of Bertha armyworms is warranted, Dr. Liu advises growers to examine at least five separate areas that are one square metre in size in each field. She says one way of doing this is to beat the foliage in the square metre area, which should be located 50 paces into the crop, and then count the larvae that drop off the plants. An average of 25 or more per square metre is enough to justify spraying.

- (cont'd) -

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1983 Bertha Armyworm Situation In Alberta (cont'd)

A more effective, but also a more time consuming, method would be to cut off the canola plants at ground level in the square metre area, shake them and count the number of armyworms that fall to the ground.

Anyone who would like more information on the Bertha armyworm situation in Alberta or on controlling them should contact Dr. Helen Liu, Field Crops Entomologist, Alberta Environmental Centre, Vegreville, Alberta, TOB 4LO (Telephone: 632-6761).

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August 1, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POTATO BEETLES DEVELOP RESISTANCE TO INSECTICIDES

Because the Colorado potato beetle quickly builds up a resistance to insecticides, it is important that potato growers keep up-to-date on current control recommendations and that they follow them carefully.

The entomologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, Dr. Ulf Soehngen, says that these insects are capable of developing a resistance to nearly all insecticides in a relatively short time, and that in certain parts of the United States, where commercial potato production has been carried out for a long time, hardly any insecticide will control them. Growers in such areas have had to look for alternative crops. Dr. Soeghngen also says that even in areas where the level of control is still adequate, there are pockets of resistance. "It seems," he says "that the same physiological mechanism that detoxifies plants on which they feed that would be poisonous to animals also detoxifies many of the insecticides that are used today."

He suggests the following procedure to discourage the buildup of resistance to insecticides.

- Spray only when necessary. A hundred per cent control is almost impossible to achieve and the overuse of a chemical, in an attempt to obtain 100 per cent control, will force the insects to adapt to it more quickly. When possible, treat "hot spots" individually rather than treating the whole field.

- Apply the insecticides at the recommended level. The application of either more or less than that level will encourage a buildup of resistance in the beetles.

- Use different insecticides for subsequent spraying. The over use of one chemical will force the beetles to adapt more quickly to that chemical and sometimes to develop "cross-resistance" to related chemicals.

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Potato Beetles Develop Resistance To Insecticides (cont'd)

- Treat potato plants between the time they first come into bloom and full bloom. Treatment during this period is particularly crucial because the carbohydrates that are produced in the leaves at this time are essential for the development of the tubers.

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August 1, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMPARING SILOS

A person who is in the market for a silo should not be influenced in his decision by storage loss statistics alone. He should also consider such things as the cost of owning and operating the silo, says Len Fullen, systems economist with Alberta Agriculture.

An oxygen-limiting tower silo, which does the best job of all the silos of storing feed, might appear to be the best buy on the basis of storage losses alone. Mr. Fullen reports that American university research has shown that the average dry matter loss for this type of silo is only three per cent compared with 12 per cent for a stave tower silo. Hence, the dry matter loss for a 20' x 70' oxygen-limiting silo which holds 173 tons of dry matter haylage (grass or legume) at the recommended moisture level of 45 per cent would be only 5.2 tons compared with 23.9 tons for the same sized stave silo that holds 199 tons of dry matter when the grass or legume silage is stored at the 60 per cent moisture level.

"Assuming that top quality alfalfa hay (90 per cent dry matter) is selling for $75 per ton," says Mr. Fullen "it will be worth $83.33 per ton on a dry matter basis. If we use this price to establish the cost of feed losses for each type of silo, we will find that the oxygen-limiting tower silo will lose about $433 worth of feed compared with about $1,992 for the stave tower silo, representing a difference of $1,559 in favor of the oxygen-limiting silo."

However, the price differential between a 20' x 70' oxygen-limiting tower silo and a stave tower silo of similar size is approximately $75,000 ($110,000 and $35,000 respectively). And in the event that the money had to be borrowed, and the average interest rate over a number of years was 12 per cent, the oxygen-limiting silo would require a cash outlay

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Comparing Silos (cont'd)

of $9,000 a year more than the cash outlay for the stave silo just to cover the interest payments. It is not hard to see that the cost of interest would far exceed the $1,559 saving in feed.

On the other hand, if a farmer were able to purchase a second-hand oxygen-limiting tower silo at a substantially lower price than that being charged for a new unit, his investment might be fairly comparable with that required for a new silo of another type. Also, if he is in a high tax bracket, he might find the purchase of a higher priced silo would put him into a more favorable tax position. However, most farmers are not in this enviable situation.

Mr. Fullen says a farmer might also be justified in investing in a new oxygen-limiting silo if he intended to refill it two or more times a year with fresh forage and reconstituted feed. This is more difficult with a stave tower silo because the feed is removed from the top as opposed to the bottom in the case of an oxygen-limiting silo.

Mr. Fullen advises farmers to also evaluate the pros and cons of horizontal bunker silos and "sausage" silos before investing in any type of silo. He points out that a bunker silo that has concrete walls and a concrete floor can provide relatively low cost storage for a large volume of high moisture feed. Although its dry matter losses will be higher than those for other types of silos, they will probably be offset by a lower initial investment. However, labor requirements and extra equipment to handle the silage will be higher than those for a tower silo because a bunker silo does not lend itself as well to automation.

The initial capital investment in a bagging machine for making "sausage" silage is between $35,000 and $40,000, Mr. Fullen says. The machine turns out individual sausage-shaped bags that will each hold up to 180 tons of silage at a moisture content of 65 per cent.

- (cont'd) -

Comparing Silos (cont'd)

The bags cost from $475 to $500 each, and are not reusable, but they do an excellent job of minimizing storage losses. Even though they do not offer the push button convenience of a tower silo, the bags can be set up in such a way that they can be used as self-feeders.

Mr. Fullen points out that the bunker and the "sausage" silos have another advantage over tower silos. It is that they can be adapted at little or no extra cost to feed a larger number of cattle in the event that such a necessity should arise in the future.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A GUIDE FOR 1983 CUSTOM HAYMAKING RATES

This year's custom haymaking rates are expected to be very similar to those charged in 1982 because machinery ownership and operating costs have changed very little or not at all during the past year.

The rates are compiled annually by Alberta Agriculture on the basis of a survey that is conducted during the current year's haying season. Because the 1983 rates are expected to have changed so little from those of last year, the 1982 rates for cutting and conditioning hay and for baling and stacking both round and conventional bales are given in the following tables as a guide for this year's haying season.

Cutting and Conditioning ($ per acre)

Region	1982	Most Common for 1982
North	$4.00 - $ 7.75	$5.00 - $7.50
Central	$4.50 - $10.00	$7.00 - $8.00
South	$6.50 - $11.00	$8.00 - $9.00

The hourly rate for cutting and conditioning hay in 1982 ranged from $25 to $40 per hour with $40 being the rate most commonly charged. Field conditions and the type of machine used (i.e. swather versus mower conditioner versus swather conditioner) both had a bearing on the rate.

BALING — Large Round Bales ($ per bale)

Region	1982	Most Common for 1982
North	$4.00 - $7.50	$4.00 - $5.00
Central	$4.00 - $9.00	$5.00 - $6.00
South	$5.00	—

- (cont'd) -

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1982 Custom Haymaking Rates (cont'd)

BALING — Small Square Bales (¢ per bale)

Region	1982	Most Common for 1982
North	20 ¢ - 28 ¢	20 ¢ - 28¢
Central	25 ¢ - 75 ¢	25 ¢ - 30¢
South	25 ¢ - 50 ¢	30 ¢ - 35¢

STACKING — Small Square Bales (¢ per bale)

Region	1982	Most Common for 1982
North	30 ¢	—
Central	20 ¢ - 47¢	20 ¢ - 25 ¢
South	16 ¢ - 30¢	19 ¢ - 25 ¢

The rate for stacking small square bales on a per ton basis was $10 to $15.

The rate charged for stacking round bales in 1982 was $2 to $2.50 per bale.

Anyone who would like more information on custom haymaking rates should contact his district agriculturist or the Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EUROPEAN CORNBORER UPDATE

There is still time to check your sweet corn for the European cornborer, which lays its eggs during July and the early part of August. Anyone who finds egg masses and/or larvae is asked to notify his district agriculturist who will outline the control measures that are recommended and make a note of the distribution pattern of this destructive insect.

The European cornborer moth generally deposits its eggs, which are layed in clusters that overlap like fish scales, on the underside of corn leaves. However, it may also lay them on the upper leaf surface, on the corn stalks or on the flag leaves of the corn husks. The eggs are white at first but soon turn yellow and then black as they approach hatching time. Depending upon the temperature, the eggs will hatch four to seven days after they have been laid.

The newly hatched larvae first move into the corn whorls where they feed on the developing leaves. Later they may enter the tassels, stalks and ear shanks and continue their feeding. They overwinter in these parts of the plant.

According to Dr. Ulf Soehngen, entomologist at the Alberta Horticultural Center in Brooks, the European cornborer, which is relatively new to Alberta, is causing perplexing problems to sweet corn growers in south-eastern Alberta. He says field corn producers have been affected to a lesser degree, probably mainly because cattle are less fastitidious about what they eat than are people. He also says the European cornborer can thrive on more than 150 different plant species and that it has become a serious pest in such diverse crops as winter wheat in New York state and in apples, peppers and snapbeans grown in Ontario. As far as he knows it has not yet damaged cultivated crops, other than sweet corn, in Alberta.

Dr. Soehngen reports that a spring survey conducted by the provincial and federal governments indicated that the winter survival rate of cornborer larvae in some fields in

- (cont'd) -

European Cornborer Update (cont'd)

southern Alberta was as high as 85 per cent. Although most of the corn stalks were plowed under or disced earlier in the season, he says enough trash has remained to provide more than enough cornborers for a severe infestation to develop in late summer under favorable larval development conditions.

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August 1, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HAY BUYERS BEWARE!

Anyone who intends to buy hay that was grown in Montana, U.S.A., or in British Columbia should make sure that it does not contain either diffuse or spotted knapweed.

Shaffeek Ali, supervisor of urban and industrial vegetation management with Alberta Agriculture, says although both these species of knapweed are common in Montana and British Columbia, they are on the restricted weed list in Alberta. This is because of the threat they pose to rangeland.

Mr. Ali suggests that farmers get the name of the person who is selling the hay and then pass it on to their district agriculturist or agricultural fieldman who will find out whether or not the hay was grown on knapweed-infested premises. He also recommends, as an additional precaution, that farmers check the hay themselves when it arrives and before they pay for it. He points out that if they should find any knapweed, they are not obliged to take delivery of the hay because it is illegal under The Alberta Weed Control Act for anyone to transport weed-infested feed in this province.

Farmers who would like more information on this topic or who would like assistance in identifying knapweed should contact their district agriculturist or agricultural fieldman.

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August 1, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONVENTIONAL BALERS VERSUS LARGE ROUND BALERS

The Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) has information that is available upon request on conventional rectangular baling systems and on large round baling systems that is based on field tests that were carried out by the institute's engineers.

During their evaluation of conventional rectangular baling systems versus large round baling systems, the engineers found that there are pros and cons for each. The average work rate for a conventional baler in alfalfa, for example, ranged from 8.8 to 15.4 tons per hour compared with 7.2 to 14 tons per hour for a large round baler. And generally speaking, conventional bales can be handled manually or with an automatic stacker, while manual handling of round bales is impossible because of their size. Round bales take up more storage space than conventional bales which could be significant because it seems that the smaller the area of stacked feed that is exposed to weathering, the less hay that will be spoilt. However, there is still very little reliable data on the amount of spoilage that can be expected from stacked conventional bales versus round bales. To rectify the situation, PAMI hopes to carry out research in this area in the near future.

During their comparison of conventional balers and round balers, the engineers found that most conventional balers required a 50 to 60 horsepower tractor and that the round balers required a considerably larger tractor. In fact, PAMI engineers recommend about 100 horsepower tractor to fully utilize the capacity of a large round baler under all field conditions.

Regarding twine, it was found that most conventional balers use about 670 feet of twine per ton of hay compared with an average of about 210 feet for the large round balers.

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Conventional Balers Versus Large Round Balers (cont'd)

Under ideal moisture conditions, the leaf loss for conventional balers was about four per cent compared with about five per cent for the round balers. However, losses varied among the three types of round balers with the ground roll type having significantly higher leaf losses (about 12 per cent) under ideal baling moisture conditions compared with the soft core (fixed chamber) and hard core (expandable chamber) balers, both of which had similar leaf losses.

As far as safety goes, it is true that there have been a fairly large number of serious and fatal accidents with round balers. However, most of them were the result of the operator having dismounted from the tractor while the baler was still running.

Anyone who would like more detailed information on conventional balers and/or round balers should obtain a copy of the reports that have been compiled by PAMI staff, who have also compiled reports on such related equipment as bale movers, bale wagons, etc. The address in Alberta is The Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute, C/o LCC Campus, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1K 1L6 (Telephone: 329-1212).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER ANNUAL FIELD DAY

Potatoes — Production and Processing will be the main feature of this year's field day at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks on August 26. It will include special displays of potato varieties, insect and disease control, irrigation practices and processing.

Other highlights on the program will feature exhibits and displays of fruit, vegetables, special crops and beekeeping equipment and techniques. And there will be a display of herbs and spices.

Visitors will tour the potato, fruit, vegetable, ornamental and special crops plots as well as the greenhouses to see the research projects that are presently underway. And specialists in the plant pest clinic will be on hand to diagnose and discuss plant diseases and insect and weed problems. People who are interested in tree and shrub pruning and in flower arranging will be able to obtain practical information on these topics from demonstrations.

Fresh corn on the cob and refreshments will be served at the field day, but people who intend to stay all day should bring a picnic lunch, and they should be prepared for a limited amount of walking while going to and from parking and picnic areas and while visiting the displays.

The Alberta Horticultural Research Center's annual field day is designed to provide all horticultural enthusiasts with the latest information on a very wide variety of topics.

The center is located 5 km east of Brooks on Highway No.1, and the field day will start at 9 a.m. and run until 4 p.m. Everyone is invited. Individuals or groups who require detailed information on a specific topic might prefer to visit the center on any day of the week during the summer season.

For further information on the center's activities and on the field day, telephone 362-3391.

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August 1, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED TO OYEN

Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, has appointed Lynne Nieman to the position of district home economist at Oyen.

Ms. Nieman grew up on a mixed farm in Saskatchewan where she was active in both 4-H and cooperative youth activities during her school years. She received her B.S.H. Ec. from the University of Saskatchewan in 1975. From 1976 to 1977 she worked for the Hudson's Bay in Saskatoon as a department head. In 1977 she accepted a CUSO position in Ghana, West Africa, where she remained until 1979 as a clothing and textiles instructor at a teacher training college. From 1979 to 1981 she coordinated a family health project and a rural extension and community development program in northeastern Ghana.

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CANADIANA

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AGRI-NEWS

August 8, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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August 8, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOG OUTLOOK

The outlook for hog prices for the remainder of this year and early 1984 is not encouraging.

Gordon Herrington, livestock economist with Alberta Agriculture, expects a further price weakness in Alberta hog prices until the end of the fourth quarter. He points out that the mid-July prices for 100 index hogs that were in the $66 per hundredweight range followed an extended downward trend from early February, and that the traditional summer price upturn will be masked this year by the expansionary phase that the hog industry is presently in. He says, at best, prices are expected to remain around the mid-July level until early August. After that he foresees a further price weakness. It will be brought on by a liberal supply of pork and little prospect of a significant increase in exports, except at very competitive price discounts.

Mr. Herrington thinks that prices could drop to below $60 per hundredweight for 100 index hogs in the fall, and that a further price decline could be experienced in late November or early December. However, two factors within the Canadian red meat complex may ease the situation. One is that the slaughter cattle output, particularly in Alberta, is expected to moderate substantially in the fourth quarter. And the other is that retail pork prices could decline sufficiently to improve consumer demand without pressuring either producer or wholesale prices.

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Hog Outlook (cont'd)

Mr. Herrington is not optimistic about prices in the early part of 1984 either. He says prospects for any price improvement in Canada in early 1984 appear bleak. This is because producer reaction to the present trend to lower prices is being shielded by the various provincial insurance and income stabilization programs. Hence, pork supplies will remain relatively large, and price trends will be influenced by the level of North American supplies rather than by specific changes in the output of individual provinces. And a continuing need for a large export component in the industry will ensure that price discounts will continue, and may even widen, between Canada and the United States.

The above article is based on information that was available in July 1983.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NITRATES IN HAIL-DAMAGED FORAGE CROPS

Do hail-damaged crops pose a threat to livestock? This is a question that many district agriculturists in Alberta are being asked this summer as a result of the above normal number of hail storms.

The answer is that they can be poisonous to rumenants if the crops contain a high level of nitrates, which are converted in the rumen into nitrites. The nitrites are absorbed them into the animal's blood stream where they limit its oxygen-carrying capacity and can literally suffocate the anima'

What is the best time to harve. a hail-damaged crop is another question that is frequently asked. According to information compiled by Ed Redshaw, plant physiologist with Alberta Agriculture, and Robert Westra, formerly of Alberta Agriculture, a crop that has been damaged by either hail or frost should be salvaged as soon as possible. Although the potential for a high level of nitrates in forage is minimized if the hail storm or frost is followed by bright, sunny days, the longer the damaged forage remains in the field, the greater will be the loss of quality and dry matter. It is unlikely that a perennial forage crop will contain a toxic level of nitrates even after having been damaged by hail or frost. However, it is a good idea to have cereal crops that have been damaged by hail tested before feeding them. An oat crop that was heavily fertilized, for example, may never be safe to feed to livestock, regardless of whether or not it was hailed or frozen.

It is also recommended that forage and cereal crops that were damaged by hail, and are to be put up as hay, be stored separately from the other hay and that a sample of the hay be sent for analysis. If the crop is to be made into silage, a sample should be sent for analysis before the forage is put into the silo or silage bag. And it too should be stored separately from the other silage. The reason for the chemical analysis is that it will tell the owner whether the hay or silage needs to be diluted with nitrate-free feed and, if so, in what proportion.

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Nitrates in Hail-Damaged Forage Crops (cont'd)

It appears that leaving hay in windrows for two or three days is not the answer to a nitrate problem. If the hay dries quickly and is baled before any rain falls on it, very little nitrate will be lost. On the other hand, if the hay receives a considerable amount of rain before it is baled, as much as 50 per cent of the nitrate could be leached out, but so would other nutrients, and moldy hay is not desirable either.

Similarly, in the case of silage, very little nitrate would be lost if the forage was properly harvested, put into a silo soon after it was cut and properly packed. However, if it was poorly ensiled, a large proportion of the nitrate might be degraded, but again, the end product would not be very desirable.

When cattle, sheep or goats are to be allowed to graze a hail-damaged crop, it is probably best to turn them on to it as soon as possible. However, they should be well fed before they are turned out; they should be turned out for only one or two hours in the afternoon until the plants have developed a large proportion of new leaves; and the animals' vaginal mucus membranes should be checked periodically to make sure that they are not darkening in color. The latter is a sign that nitrate toxicity occurring.

Feed that contains a non-toxic level of nitrates will have no effect on rumenants. However, a level that is above one per cent can cause the animals to develop rapid breathing, become weak, start to slobber and be unable to get up. If nothing is done, these symptoms will usually be followed by death. Hence, if any are noticed, a veterinarian should be called immediately!

August 8, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANHYDROUS AMMONIA AS A FEED PRESERVATIVE

by Glen Werner
Senior District Agriculturist, Stettler

Anhydrous ammonia is used as a refrigerant, as a source of nitrogen in commercial fertilizers and now research is showing that it can be used to improve and preserve livestock feed.

Several years ago, research in Saskatchewan showed that straw could be improved by treating it with anhydrous ammonia. The researchers have since expanded their research to demonstrate that it can also be used to preserve greenfeed and hay that is put up while still damp.

In some respects the preservation of feed with ammonia is like making silage. Such feed, like silage, must be isolated from the environment. Silage must be put into a silo or covered with plastic, and a stack of ammonia-treated feed must also be covered with plastic. And moisture is required for both processes. However, this is where the similarity ends.

The preservation of silage entails the elimination of oxygen and the formation of lactic acid, while the ammonia moves through the feed. It is attracted by the moisture in the feed and it kills the organisms that cause spoilage. Also, the ammonia provides an atmosphere within the sealed stack which prevents any new organisms from coming in. If the covering is not damaged, such feed will keep for years -- just like silage.

The technique used for preserving feed with anhydrous ammonia is quite simple, especially after the first time. The feed is baled in either square or round bales at a moisture content of between 25 and 35 per cent -- do not exceed a moisture content of 50 per cent. The feed should be stacked as soon as it has been baled and covered with 6 mil polyethylene. All the joints should be taped and the polyethylene should be sealed to the ground around the stack by placing soil or sand bags on it.

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Anhydrous Ammonia as a Feed Preservative (cont'd)

The next step is to inject the ammonia into each end of the stack with a perforated pipe. The ammonia should be pumped directly from the supply truck into the stack, after which the pipe should be removed, the hole taped shut and some netting put over the stack to keep the polyethylene from being damaged by the wind.

Because anhydrous ammonia is dangerous, rubber gloves and goggles should always be worn when handling it and water should be near by. Also, the stack should be well sealed before the ammonia is added. Any ammonia that escapes through small punctures in the plastic after the feed has been treated will not be dangerous but it will reduce the storage life of the feed.

Stacks of ammonia-treated feed should be opened and allowed to ventilate for a few days to remove any excess ammonia before the feed is removed.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CUSTOM GRAIN HARVESTING RATE GUIDE

The following 1982 custom grain harvesting rates are given as a guide for farmers who are wondering what they should charge for this year's custom work.

Alberta Agriculture's specialist in the area of custom rates, Gerd Andres, explains that custom harvesting rates are collected by Alberta Agriculture annually through a survey of the rates being charged in the current year. This means a survey of the rates being charged this year will be carried out during the coming harvesting season. Mr. Andres says that the 1982 rates are being given as a guide for this year because the two rates are expected to be very similar. This is because machinery ownership and operating costs have changed little or not at all since the last harvesting season.

Mr. Andres reports that the 1982 survey showed that swathing rates in all regions of the province ranged from a low of $3 to a high of $8 per acre, and that the most common charge was $5 per acre. Trucking rates in all regions ranged from 3¢ to 14 ¢ per bushel with the most common charge being 14 ¢ per bushel or between $20 and $30 per hour.

The combining rates and the combining and trucking rates presented in the following tables were compiled on a regional basis because of the variations between regions. Region 1 extends from the American border to High River; Region 2 extends from High River to Olds; Region 3 extends from Olds to Camrose; Region 4 extends from Camrose to Fort McMurray; Region 5 extends from Camrose to Athabasca; and Region 6 is the Peace River area.

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Custom Grain Harvesting Rate Guide (cont'd)

Combining ($ Per Acre)

Region	Range	Most Common
1	$12 - 35	$14
2	$ 6 - 22	$14
3	$ 9 - 10	$ 9 - 10
4	$10 - 20	$10 - 11
5	$11 (one report)	—
6	$20 (one report)	—

Combining and Trucking ($ Per Acre)

Region	Range	Most Common
1	$15 - 40	$17 - 18
2	$10 - 15	$14 - 15
3	$10 - 15	$13 - 15
4	$ 9 - 15	$15
5	$14 - 16	$14 - 16
6	$21 (one report)	—

According to Mr. Andres, many people do not understand the different rate structures that apply to a good neighbor compared with an operator who specializes in custom work. "A good neighbor", he explains, "is usually a local farmer who does custom work after he has finished his own work, while somebody who specializes in custom work does it as a full-time job. Hence, a good neighbor is usually only interested in covering his variable costs (fuel, labor and repairs) and in making a small profit to supplement his income. His

Custom Grain Harvesting Rate Guide (cont'd)

fixed costs (depreciation, interest and insurance) are usually covered by his own farm. On the other hand, a full-time custom operator has to cover his variable costs, his fixed costs and make a profit if he is going to stay in business. Consequently, his rate will nearly always be higher than that of a good neighbor."

You can obtain additional information on grain harvesting custom rates from your district agriculturist or from the Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STEM SMUT

Stem smut is a widespread fungus disease of fall rye in Alberta. In 1982 it was found in 22 per cent of fall rye fields that were surveyed by staff at the federal research station in Lethbridge.

According to Dr. Ronald Howard, plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, plants which have been infected with stem smut can be detected as soon as they begin to head out, but the disease does not become conspicuous until after the crop has started to ripen. As the name of this disease suggests, a mass of black smut spores appears on the uppermost part of the rye stems, which are much shorter than healthy stems. The mass of spores then spreads into the heads of the rye which become blackened and yield no grain. Dr. Howard says the heads of infested plants often do not emerge from the "boot" and that when they do emerge, they are usually bent or otherwise distorted.

He reports that Vitaflow fungicide seed treatment in either the liquid suspension (Vitaflo-280) or the drill box formulation (Vitaflo DB) provide fairly good control of stem smut. And he says that Vitaflo, being a systemic, will also provide some control of stem smut when the spores are in the soil. He points out that this is an important feature because stem smut spores can survive in the dry soils of southern Alberta in spite of an intervening fallow year. Hence, other seed treatment products that to not have Vitaflo's systemic property may fail to provide protection against soil borne spores.

Dr. Howard also points out that the use of the resistant fall rye cultivar, Kodiak, in conjunction with treating the seed with Vitaflo, has been the main method of controlling the disease since 1976. He reports that the use of Kodiak increased by 50 per cent between

- (cont'd) -

Stem Smut (cont'd)

1977 and 1981. It replaced some of the moderately susceptible old cultivars. Dr. Howard also says that the fungicide treatment of fall rye seed increased from practically nil in 1977 to approximately 25 per cent of the rye crops that were planted in 1981. However, the efficiency of Vitaflo apparently varies, depending upon environmental, biological and other factors.

Dr. Howard says an increase in the use of a fungicide that is more effective than Vitaflo plus a new cultivar that is as resistant as Kodiak and as agronomically acceptable as Cougar will be needed if losses from fall rye stem smut are to be substantially reduced.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DUTCH ELM DISEASE PROSPECTS IN ALBERTA

Can Alberta remain free of Dutch Elm Disease (DED) which attacks American elm trees? Dr. Ieuan Evans, plant pathologist with Alberta Agriculture, sees no reason why it should not, providing that its residents continue their vigilance.

He holds this optimistic view in spite of the fact that DED infected more than 1,000 American elms in Winnipeg last year out of a city-wide population of around 250,000, and even though that city had a rigid disease control program in place. He reports that Winnipeg's 1983 budget for controlling the disease this year will be over $1 million.

According to Dr. Evans, it is quite possible that more than 200,000 of Winnipeg's elm trees would disappear in a few years if the disease was not checked. And he says it is becoming increasingly difficult to find mature American elm trees in most Eastern Canadian cities, especially in Ontario where the elm was once the dominant urban species.

Why then does Dr. Evans feel optimistic about Alberta's chances of escaping this very destructive disease. He says "Maybe an outbreak could occur here but we have a much better chance of preventing and controlling DED than is the case in any of the provinces to the east of us because we have no wild American elms and because, so far, we have no bark beetles, which feed only on dead or dying elms and are essential for the spread of this disease."

The American elm grows wild in Eastern Canada and in Manitoba and Saskatchewan whereas all the elm trees in Alberta have been planted, regardless of whether they are on farmsteads, in gardens or along city boulevards. "Hence, we do not have to contend with elms in varying states of health that are growing wild in our river valleys or along our river banks as is the case in Manitoba and to a lesser extent in Saskatchewan," says Dr. Evans.

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Dutch Elm Disease Prospects In Alberta (cont'd)

And he points out that we do not have either the native elm bark beetle nor the European elm bark beetle, both of which are present in Manitoba. Saskatchewan has only the native elm bark beetle.

However, Dr. Evans stresses that because we do not have the necessary ingredients for a general epidemic of DED does not mean that we can afford to be less vigilant in Alberta. Drooping and yellowing leaves are the typical symptoms to watch for at this time of year. In June and July the sudden wilting, curling and browning of the leaves on one or more branches could be an indication of DED. At first glance such branches may appear to have been broken by the wind. Dr. Evans urges anyone who thinks he has seen any of these symptoms on an American elm to contact his district agriculturist who will send a sample of the branches to his nearest Alberta Agriculture regional crops laboratory for an analysis.

Because plant protection specialists have been concerned for some time now about the possibility of campers bringing fire wood into Alberta from DED-infested areas in Manitoba and Montana, all camping grounds in the province and border crossings have been posted with "KEEP DED OUT" notices. They are intended to remind travellers about the risk of transporting DED in elm fire wood.

DED was declared a plant pest under the Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta in 1978, which makes it illegal to bring infected elm wood into the province.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE CONTROL OF POWDERY MILDEW

Powdery mildew, a fungus disease that affects bluegrass turf, frequently develops under trees and dense shrubbery as well as along the edges of flowerbeds and buildings where the shade is moderate to heavy, the air circulation is poor and the humidity is high.

This disease can be recognized by the presence of a powdery white growth on the blades of grass, and is most prevalent on the new growth. Since it weakens the grass plants, they are easily killed by environmental stress and by other diseases. If the infection is heavy, the grass blades may turn yellow and die.

Powdery mildew spreads rapidly by spores that overwinter on the infected blades of grass.

Dr. Ronald Howard, plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, recommends the following procedure for controlling the disease.

- Avoid close mowing and the excessive use of a nitrogen fertilizer because it may stimulate an excessive amount of new growth.
- Selectively prune trees and shrubs to allow the sunlight to penetrate the area and to facilitate better air circulation.
- Plant creeping red fescue grass in shaded areas.
- Apply a thiophanate-methyl fungicide spray at 14-day intervals if the infection is severe.

Dr. Howard points out that Touchdown, Nugget and Dormie bluegrass varieties are resistant to powdery mildew, while Arista, Delta Merion and Fylking have medium resistance. The Park, Common and the *Poa annua* types of bluegrass are all susceptible to the disease.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DRYING FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

The preservation of food by drying has shown a considerable increase over the last decade, according to Cathy Sinnott, Alberta Agriculture's regional food and nutrition specialist for the northern part of the province.

She says fruit, vegetables, herbs and seeds can all be dried in a conventional oven, a convection oven or in the wide variety of food dehydrators that are on the market today. Sun drying is not recommended for most parts of Alberta because there are usually not enough consecutive hot, dry days to do a successful job of drying.

Ms. Sinnott suggests that anyone who has never dried food before start out by using a conventional oven. And she points out that an oven thermometer is essential when using a conventional oven because the temperature must be kept as close to 60 °C (140° F) as possible. She also says that the oven door must be left ajar to allow the moist air to escape, and that a fan placed on a counter near the oven door will speed up the movement of moist air away from the products being dried.

Flat wicker baskets, wooden slats and stainless steel mesh can all be used as drying trays. While in the oven they should be rotated and turned frequently to facilitate even drying. Ms. Sinnott emphasizes that the successful drying of any type of food depends upon the ability of the air to circulate around the items.

She points out that the speed with which food dries will depend upon the air temperature and the relative humidity, the speed with which the air circulates around the

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Drying Fruits And Vegetables (cont'd)

items that are being dried and the speed with which the moisture in the products is drawn to the surface and evaporates. Because so many factors are involved, it is impossible to specify the time required to dry a specific type of food. "Each type must be tested and its degree of dryness evaluated," says Ms. Sinnott. "Properly dried fruits, for example, are usually leathery or 'suede-like'. This means that it should be impossible to squeeze any moisture out of the fruit and that a handful of pieces will not stick together when squeezed."

Further information on drying fruit and vegetables is contained in a leaflet entitled "Drying Fruits and Vegetables" (Homedex 1157) which can be obtained from district home economists or by writing to the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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August 8, 1983

FOR MMEDIATELY RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED TO VALLEYVIEW

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Shirley Myers, has announced the appointment of Christine Murphy to the position of district home economist at Valleyview.

Ms. Murphy was born in Edmonton and grew up in Red Deer. She obtained her B.Sc. (home economics) from the University of Alberta in 1982, having majored in foods and nutrition.

She took her district home economist training at the Barrhead district office.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA FARM INCOME OUTLOOK

While farm cash receipts in 1982 remained similar to those of the previous year, 1983 cash receipts are forecast to drop by nearly 7 per cent or by $261 million.

Total cash operating expenses are also expected to drop, but by only 4 per cent. This would bring Alberta farmers' net cash income in 1983 to slightly above the 1979 level. However, because prices rose by more than 35 per cent from 1979 through 1982, many farmers are continuing to be hard pressed to meet such financial commitments as principal payments on outstanding debts and on-going cash expenses.

According to the assistant head of Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch, Lorraine Hope, machinery costs, which have risen by 84 per cent since 1979, continue to be the largest on-going expense being faced by Alberta farmers today. She points out that these machinery expenses include only fuel, parts and labor for repairs; they do not include the purchase of new equipment, nor do they include the interest paid on existing equipment. She also says these increased costs, which have been accompanied by lower incomes, have resulted in many farmers repairing their old machines rather than buying new ones. And she adds that "While this approach allows for an immediate decrease in the total cash cost to the farmer, the difference between the old equipment, which is worth less, and the new equipment, which continues to increase in price, will be much greater when the old machinery is finally replaced."

The reduction in interest rates from their unprecedented levels in 1981 has been the one bright spot for farmers in 1983. The lower rates charged by the federal Farm Credit Corporation and the provincial Agricultural Development Corporation have enabled some farmers to refinance their debts to match their present and projected incomes. However, even though total interest costs for 1983 are expected to be down by $62 million from what they were in 1982, the $418 million in interest costs that will have to be paid by Alberta farmers this year remains one of their larger cash expenses.

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Ms. Hope expects cash receipts from crops in 1983 to be down by more than $160 million. She points out that a weak demand and burdensome world grain supplies will mean lower grain prices. Wheat receipts are expected to be up slightly, but barley receipts are projected to drop by 22 per cent. Canola receipts will remain similar to what they were in 1982.

Cash receipts from livestock are projected to be down by $100 million in 1983. Although cattle prices continue to be down marginally from what they were last year, heavier carcass weights should offset much of this shortfall. But cash receipts from hogs are expected to be down by $25 million, and lower prices will be responsible for this decline.

In essence, the short-term cost-price squeeze has placed many Alberta farmers in a cash-short position as the rising costs of farming continue to take a larger and larger part of the cash receipts. And the buoyant attitude that were prevalent during the 1970's has been replaced by a cautious scepticism.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEEF CATTLE OUTLOOK

During the remainder of the current quarter, A1 and A2 steer prices in Calgary are expected to be in the $70 to $72 per hundredweight range, but to decline below $70 per hundredweight periodically. However, according to Alberta Agriculture's livestock economist, Gordon Herrington, prices should show some strengthening towards the end of the year and reach $73 to $74 per hundredweight in Calgary by mid-December.

He expects fed heifer discounts to remain narrow throughout the third quarter but to widen in the fourth quarter. And he says the Calgary-Toronto differential will remain relatively wide because U.S. slaughter cattle will be substituted for western slaughter cattle when supplies tighten in Western Canada. However, supplies will remain relatively plentiful in the United States. Severe weakness is expected in the fourth quarter slaughter-cow market, particularly in the D3 and D5 slaughter grades.

Mr. Herrington says feeder cattle and calf prices should be slightly better this fall and winter than they were during the same periods in 1982. This expectation is based on a good demand arising from large on-farm feed supplies. However, Mr. Herrington points out that less than satisfactory price levels for fed cattle will limit price advances. Demand and prices for cow-calf pairs and females suitable for breeding are expected to be good during the remainder of the year.

Although Alberta's beef output will probably be reduced over the next two quarters; supplies of slaughter cattle in North America as a whole will be plentiful. Mr. Herrington says third quarter supplies of fed cattle in the United States will be good and that an increase in the number of cows that are slaughtered will be a dominant influence in the market place in both Canada and the U.S. during the fourth quarter.

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Beef Cattle Outlook (cont'd)

Estimates of corn and barley supplies suggest that the demand for feeder cattle and calves will continue to be strong throughout the fall and winter months, but that fed cattle price expectations will limit price levels.

Mr. Herrington points out that the current pressure on narrow producer-wholesale margins will persist if beef retail price reductions remain relatively small. He also points out that a further price weakness beyond that expected above could occur if supplies continue to be burdensome, especially since pork will become increasingly abundant during the next six months. He says little latitude exists in producer-wholesale margins to enable them to absorb supply and demand pressures, but that wholesale-retail margins could narrow to improve consumer demand.

The above article is based on information that was available in July, 1983.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADC FIRST-QUARTER LENDING RESULTS

Harold Hanna, chairman and managing director of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), has announced the corporation's lending results for the first quarter, which ended on June 30, 1983.

Direct farm lending for the quarter equalled 338 loans for a total of $43.5 million. Three hundred and nine of the loans, amounting to $40.9 million, were made to beginning farmers. Specific guaranteed loans to farmers equalled 22 loans and totalled $0.87 million, while guaranteed loans made under the Alberta Farm Development Loan Program accounted for 2,127 loans and totalled $29.9 million. In the area of agribusiness, seven specific guaranteed loans were approved for a total of $5.2 million, while eight operating loans were extended for a further $9.2 million.

Compared with the same period in the previous year, the volume of direct lending in the first quarter of 1983-84 was down by $18 million or by about 29 per cent. This was the result of continuing uncertainty in agriculture and the increased lending activity of other lenders.

Mr. Hanna says that the corporation expects there will be a continued emphasis on guaranteed loans providing that commercial lending rates remain at or near their current levels. With the reduced level of direct lending, ADC's field staff have been able to devote more time to financial counselling and assisting farmers in difficulty to restructure their affairs. Mr. Hanna also emphasized the necessity for the corporation to be responsive to the changing credit needs of the agricultural industry in Alberta.

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August 15, 1983

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TORDON NOT A HEALTH HAZARD

Over the years the herbicide, Tordon, has been accused by anti-pesticide groups of causing a number of health hazards including birth defects and cancer. However, according to Alberta Agriculture's pesticide issues co-ordinator, Dr. Moe Hussain, these accusations are not based on fact; they are totally false.

He says anti-pesticide groups have used false information to mislead the public into believing that Tordon is dangerous. He stresses that it has been exhaustively tested for nearly 30 years by various universities, governments, research centres and chemical manufacturers, and that all the results have been negative.

Dr. Hussain says: "This herbicide does not cause cancer, miscarriages or birth defects. Because it is quickly eliminated in the urine and does not accumulate in the human body, it does not have a chance to precipitate any of the health problems that have been attributed to it. Nor does it penetrate the uterus where it could affect an unborn baby."

Dr. Hussain also says that the data often quoted by anti-pesticide groups to support their accusation that Tordon causes cancer come from a report by Dr. Melvin Reuber, pathologist with the Fredrick Cancer Research Center in the United States.

Reuber claimed to have seen 25,000 microscopic samples of tissues that came from rats that had been treated with Tordon which he concluded were cancerous. However, as Dr. Hussain points out, Reuber was sharply and publicly reprimanded by his supervisor, Dr. M.G. Hanna, who is director of the center. Dr. Hanna accused Reuber of lying and of giving the impression that the center may be engaged in research of questionable competency. However, according to the center's daily log, Dr. Reuber did not spend enough time in the

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Tordon Not A Health Hazard (cont'd)

laboratory to review 25,000 microscopic samples of tissue. And the judgement of the team of pathologists who actually carried out the research on Tordon, and who spent several years doing so, would be much more creditable than that of one man. According to Dr. Hussain, these pathologists concluded several years ago that Tordon does not cause cancer.

In addition to being used on crops, Tordon is used in Alberta to control weeds and brush along roadsides. When used for this purpose it can be purchased and applied only by specially trained personnel who have been licensed by the government. Since it is not sold to homeowners, no one is exposed to Tordon except the person who applies it. However, Dr. Hussain says even if somebody were to be accidentally exposed to it, no harm would come to him because it is so quickly eliminated by the body.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA LAMB PRICE OUTLOOK

The outlook for Alberta prices is not optimistic in the short term, says Debbie Thorsen, market economist with Alberta Agriculture.

She reports prices will be generally lower for the remainder of this year, compared with the same period in 1982, and that supplies will remain heavy. She says among the factors underlying the weaker lamb prices are a sharp increase in supplies, ample supplies of competing meats and a weak North American economy.

She points out that it is normal for prices to decline during the third quarter, but that they usually recover to some degree before the end of the year. However, this year, the significant drop in prices that has occurred up to the present time is not expected to turn around. In fact, the decline is expected to continue over the next three months, but at a more moderate pace, possibly reaching a low in the mid-$50 per hundredweight range by fall.

According to Ms. Thorsen, Alberta lamb prices in the second quarter of this year averaged the lowest they have been in that quarter for the last five years. And she says the heavy lamb slaughter that is taking place this summer, plus the smaller January 1, 1983 inventory, indicates a possible reduction in this fall's slaughter level.

The above article is based on information that was available in July 1983.

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THE SALE OF THE CENTURY

About 60 prominent American cattle breeders, a large number of well known Canadian breeders and the president of the United Kingdom's Limousin Association were among the 300 potential buyers who attended the largest annual sale ever held at Goldview Farms Ltd in High River, Alberta.

Called "The Sale of the Century", it featured 74 lots of full French Limousin cattle, many of which were the progeny of "Harvest Olympus" and "Harvest Sportsman", both internationally famous Limousin bulls.

Lee Harris of Alberta Agriculture's market development sector, who attended the sale, reports that the 74 lots grossed $668,050 for an average price of $9,028. He points out that this is a very exceptionally high average in view of the present state of the North American cattle industry, and that it speaks extremely well for the Limousin breed.

The owners of Goldenview Farms Ltd, Jim and Ruth McBride, felt that the best part of the sale was that their cattle all went to first class breeders who are likely to be in the Limousin business for many years to come. This means that they are also likely to be "repeat" clients.

The cattle went to 11 states in the U.S.A. and four provinces in Canada. The buyer who bought the largest number of cattle at the sale was Vern Ryan of San Angelo, Texas. He bought six lots for a total of $76,200.

Mr. Harris reports that 65 per cent of the cattle were sold to American buyers for a total of $431,100.

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The Sale Of The Century (cont'd)

He attributes much of the success of the Goldview Farms' sale to the time and effort the McBrides expended on the promotion of the Limousin breed in both Canada and the United States. And Mr. Harris believes that the success of their sale will greatly benefit the Limousin cattle industry in Alberta as a whole.

A great deal of time and energy also went into the actual organizing of the sale, which started off with a wine and cheese party that featured prominent western entertainers. It and the barbecue, which also preceded the sale, were attended by the 300 guests.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN EGG SITUATION

The Canadian Egg Marketing Agency (CEMA) plans to reduce quotas on January 1, 1984 by 5 per cent to try to achieve a better balance between eggs supplies and table egg consumption. And it is widely anticipated that producer levels will be raised in September to help finance the agency's current surplus egg disposal activities.

According to the head of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, David Walker, Canadian egg production during the first six months of this year reached 208.5 million dozen, which represents a 2.5 per cent increase over the same period in 1982. However, table egg consumption remained relatively unchanged during this period.

As a consequence of the divergent trends in production and consumption, CEMA has been involved in trying to dispose of surplus eggs. Mr. Walker reports that about 48 per cent of the almost 28.5 million dozen that have been declared as surplus have been moved to breakers, and that the balance have been exported. He points out that the 140 per cent increase in exports exceeds the level of exports in the same period in 1981 by about 10 per cent. And he says that CEMA's plans to reduce quotas by 5 per cent at the beginning of the new year appears to be based on the premise that the increase in egg production under existing quotas will continue for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Walker also points out that the present trend towards increased supplies appears to have come as somewhat of a surprise to the industry in so far as the last quota adjustment was made in 1981 and was for a 3 per cent reduction. He says among the reasons for the increase in production that have been suggested are an increase in production per bird, better quota utilization, an increase in production from unregulated flocks and over-placement. Production increases have apparently occurred in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces.

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Canadian Egg Situation (cont'd)

On the other hand, Alberta's egg production at 13.8 million dozen was marginally lower in the first six months of this year than it was during the same period in 1982. Sales of table eggs within the province during the first six months of 1983 at 16.6 million dozen were down by 2.8 per cent compared with the 1982 level. And the movement of eggs into the province, which represented 33.6 per cent of the province's total supplies of 18.4 million dozen, was down by 4.4 per cent.

The above article is based on information that was available in July, 1983.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WESTERN CANADA SHIPPER-CARRIER DAY

A Western Canada Shipper-Carrier Day has been scheduled to take place in Vancouver, British Columbia on October 26, 1983.

Nabi Chaudhary, agricultural transportation economist with Alberta Agriculture, explains the meeting is a continuation of consultive meetings that have been going on for the past three years between the Food Processing and Distribution Division of Agriculture Canada and the shippers and carriers of perishable food products to identify areas of possible improvement in the domestic and export market distribution systems.

Since the first national Shipper-Carrier Day in September of 1981, there have been five other similar events, all of which received an excellent reception. And they have been responsible for the development of new domestic and export markets for various commodities.

Mr. Chaudhary says the Canadian Committee of the International Cargo Handling Co-ordination Association (ICHCA Canada) will be working with Agriculture Canada on all aspects of the Western Canada meeting, and that its participation will bring a new dimension to the discussions.

The objectives of the Western Canada Shipper-Carrier Day are: to bring regional shippers and carriers of perishable goods and other agricultural products together so that a dialogue can be established between interested groups; to create a forum in which shippers and carriers can discuss and identify the inherent advantages and restraints in the transportation components of their domestic and export marketing activities; and to determine the types of institutional frameworks that could be used to coordinate available distribution services to achieve a better strategic marketing tool for maintaining and penetrating domestic and export markets.

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Western Canada Shipper-Carrier Day (cont'd)

According to Mr. Chaudhary, shippers of fresh produce, frozen foods, bulk and dry agricultural cargo and livestock will all be represented at the meeting. Carriers and transportation service industry personnel will provide information on the transportation facilities and services that are available to Canadian agri-product shippers from the west coast.

Although the Western Canada Shipper-Carrier Day is designed mainly for shippers and carriers who operate in the west coast area and out of west coat facilities, shippers from other parts of Canada who ship via the west coast will benefit from the meeting, Mr. Chaudhary says.

Registration details and further information on the Western Canada Shipper-Carrier Day can be obtained from:

Mr. D. Kane
Western Canada Shipper-Carrier Day
Food Processing and Distribution Division
Marketing and Economics Branch
Agriculture Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A OC5

Telephone: (613) 995 - 5880
Telex: 053 - 3283

Mr. I. Strong
Development Officer (Marketing)
Agriculture Canada
Suite 315
80-6th Street
New Westminster, British Columbia
V3L 5B3

Telephone: (604) 524 - 7342

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August 15, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO ALBERTA FARMERS

The new edition of the publication entitled "Assistance Available to Alberta Farmers" contains an update of programs that are available to farmers from the provincial and federal governments and features three programs that have been added to the list since the October 1982 edition was published.

Doug Barlund, farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, says the publication outlines the terms for some forty-five assistance programs and states who qualifies for each. He also says that all farmers, regardless of their area of specialization, will find the programs of interest, and he draws special attention to the following new programs.

- Primary Agricultural Producers Rebate Program
- Alberta Youth Employment Program
- Seniors' Home Improvement Plan

To find out more about these and the other programs, you should get a copy of "Assistance Available to Alberta Farmers" (Agdex 871). It can be obtained from your district agriculturist or from the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO or by writing to the Publications Office, Agriculture Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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August 15, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL FILMS TO AIR ON CBC

"Research — Improving the Odds", a 30-minute television film documenting the value of agricultural research to Alberta consumers, will be aired on CBC Edmonton and CBC Calgary on Thursday, August 25 at 7:30 p.m.

"Improving the Odds" recently won an Award of Merit at the annual AMTEC (Association for Media and Technology in Education in Canada) Media Festival in Montreal. This was the top award in the videotape category, which consisted of entries from across Canada. Tom Dodd of Alberta Agriculture's communications division produced the film.

Another film produced by Tom Dodd, "Arabians of the Wild Rose", has also been chosen to be aired by the CBC. It will be aired in Edmonton and Calgary on September 22 at 7:30 p.m. The film was produced in cooperation with the Alberta Arabian Horse Council to promote Alberta Arabian horses in the international marketplace.

The two Alberta Agriculture-produced films mentioned above were chosen from a group of award winning films in the AMPIA (Alberta Motion Picture Industry Association) Festival, which was held earlier this year.

For more information contact.

Doug Pettit
Head, Broadcast Media Branch
Communications Division
Phone: (403) 427-2127)

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August 15, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MANAGER OF AGRIBUSINESS LENDING APPOINTED

Bob Thompson, the Agricultural Development Corporation's general manager of lending, has announced the appointment of Peter L. McNeil to the position of manager of agribusiness lending.

In addition to his responsibilities for supervising and directing the agribusiness lending section, Mr. McNeil will be responsible for managing and monitoring the corporation's agribusiness portfolio, researching the credit needs of the agribusiness industry and recommending, and subsequently implementing, new or revised programs and policies.

He has a B.A. in economics and an M.B.A. in accounting from the University of Alberta, and is a certified general accountant. And he has been employed as a senior business analyst with Alberta Agriculture's business analysis branch since 1977. He also has a broad knowledge of the needs of Alberta agriculture.

Mr. McNeil, his wife, Johanna, and his two boys, Robert and Grant, will be moving to Camrose where they will be an asset to the community.

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AGRI-NEWS

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August 22, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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August 22, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOKYO HOTEL SERVING ALBERTA FOOD PRODUCTS

People in Tokyo, Japan, are having a chance to taste Alberta food products during the month of August. And judging by their reactions, they are enjoying what they are eating!

It is all part of what has become an annual event at the Palace Hotel in Tokyo where a one-month Canadian food festival is being held. While food for the festival is usually secured from all parts of Canada, this year the emphasis is on food products from Alberta — Alberta beef, pork, mushrooms, frozen vegetables, honey and a number of alcoholic beverages.

The Alberta Culinary Arts Foundation, working in conjunction with Alberta Agriculture's market development division, sent an Edmonton chef to the Palace Hotel where, for 17 days, he supervised the preparation of the Alberta menu. Beat Hegnauer, chef de cuisine of the Four Seasons Hotel in Edmonton, says he found a warm reception in Japan and that the Alberta food selections are being favorably received.

As part of the promotion, a dinner was held for the Japan Chefs' Association at which 50 chefs from the leading hotels in Tokyo tasted dishes prepared by Mr. Hegnauer. And the chefs were favorably impressed with the quality of the Alberta products.

Jackson Gardner, international trade director with Alberta Agriculture, explains that the food promotion is all part of trying to increase the export of Alberta food products to Japan. He says that letting the prospective customer actually taste the product, rather than just hearing about it, is a superior method of marketing. "We hope," says Mr. Gardner, "that the 50 chefs who enjoyed our food will request that their suppliers carry Alberta products on a continuing basis."

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August 22, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT LENS SCARE STORY UNTRUE

The staff of Alberta Agriculture's Farm Safety Program have received a number of calls from people who are worried about the danger of wearing contact lenses while welding.

The alarm was triggered by a recent article that stated that two workers wearing contact lenses had apparently lost their sight when the arcs and sparks that are generated during the welding process bonded their contact lenses to the corneas of their eyes.

The manager of the Farm Safety Program, Solomon Kyeremanteng, reports that the information he has received from the Alberta Optometric Association indicates that there is no truth to the above statement. He quotes the association's spokesman, Glenn Campbell, as saying that it is physically impossible for a contact lens to be bonded to the wearer's cornea, and that the heat generated by a welding arc or an electrical spark is not nearly enough to dry out the tear fluid in the eyes. Mr. Campbell also said that there is no possibility of a contact lens being able to intensify the heat in the eye by concentrating the light rays that are produced during welding.

However, welding does pose dangers to the eyes, and it is for this reason that all welders, regardless of whether or not they wear contact lenses, should always wear the appropriate safety glasses or goggles.

A welder who does not wear the proper tinted safety glasses or welder's goggles has a good chance of developing a condition called photokeratitis from exposure to the ultraviolet radiation in the welding arcs. Although this condition rarely causes permanent damage, it can be very painful for from six to 24 hours. And it is important to remember that a hot spark can burn unprotected eyes just as well as unprotected skin.

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August 22, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POTATO OUTLOOK FOR GROWERS

Alberta potato growers could find fresh potatoes under pressure again this fall if their 1983 crop is larger, or even as large, as that of last year.

This is the opinion of Alberta Agriculture's special commodities analyst, Fred Boyce, who reports that this year's potato acreage in Alberta is estimated to be 18,500 acres or 500 acres larger than the 1982 crop. He says fresh potato and seed potato acreages are estimated to be larger than those of last year, but that the processing potato acreage is estimated to be unchanged or down slightly from that of last year.

He also reports that potato contract prices in Alberta for 1983 processing are lower than they were for the 1982 crop, and that nearly all the main potato growing areas in Canada have reported a 3 to 5 per cent drop in their contract prices. He points out that larger than normal inventories, a slower demand and lower prices for open market potatoes have allowed processors to push for concessions in their contract negotiations, and that Canadian and American settlements have been similar.

Mr. Boyce says the export of Alberta seed potatoes to the United States was the one bright spot in the potato industry last season, and that a similar or higher volume of sales is anticipated for the 1983 crop.

The North American fall potato crop is reported to be in generally good condition although wet, cool weather in several areas delayed seeding and crop development. Mr. Boyce says North American potato yields are not expected to exceed those of an average year because of the late seeding in some areas. This fact, plus the smaller than normal potato acreage in the United States, could result in a North American crop of 350 million hundredweight, which would be 15 million hundredweight smaller than that of last year.

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Potato Price Outlook For Growers (cont'd)

Since the harvesting of the late summer potato crop and the early fall crop is expected to overlap in both Canada and the United States, prices are expected to be weak prior to the main harvest. However, Mr. Boyce believes prices for the main 1983 North American potato crop will be somewhat better than they were in 1982. And he points out that any adverse weather conditions during the remainder of the growing season would further enhance this anticipated price improvement.

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August 22, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICKEN MARKET OUTLOOK

The Canadian chicken market is expected to be adversely effected by an expansion in American hog production and by an increase in competitively priced pork. Although stocks are relatively low, they are projected to increase towards the end of the year, which would put pressure on prices.

David Walker, head of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, reports that Alberta chicken production was 17.5 million kg for the first six months of this year or 1.7 per cent below the output in the same period of 1982. Disappearance for the same six-month period was up by 2 per cent compared with the same period in 1982, reflecting the more liberal supply of chicken meat in this province compared with the rest of Canada. Mr. Walker points out that chicken prices in Alberta have strengthened during the last six months, but that they have not been as strong as those in Eastern Canada.

He reports that chicken production in Canada as a whole from the beginning of January 1983 to the end of June was 188.7 million kg, representing a 1.2 per cent drop from the same period in 1982. The national consumption of chicken meat during the first six months of this year has been estimated at 207.2 million kg.

Mr. Walker says the national consumption of cornish and broiler-weight birds appears to have dropped by 0.8 per cent, while the consumption of roasters has increased by 16.6 per cent. He also says that some of the drop in chicken consumption during the second quarter of this year was the result of more competitive red meat prices than was the case a year ago, and some was the result of tighter supplies. However, in general, national chicken prices have strengthened during the last six months as a result of the tighter supply situation.

The above article is based on information that was available in July, 1983.

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August 22, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUGAR SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Alberta sugar beet growers should receive modestly improved returns from their 1983 crop compared with returns from their 1982 crop, providing that there is no further collapse in the international sugar market.

Fred Boyce, special commodities analyst with Alberta Agriculture, says producer prices for the 1982 crop are not expected to match the 1981 price of $43.18 per tonne, and that they are more likely to be under the $40 per tonne level.

With average yields, Canada's 1983 sugar beet production is expected to exceed 1.1 million tonnes, which would be higher than it was in 1982. And it could even reach the 1981 level of 1.2 million tonnes. The acreage planted to sugar beets in Alberta and Quebec is expected to be up from last year, while that in Manitoba is expected to be basically unchanged.

According to Mr. Boyce, Alberta's sugar beet contracted acreage was slightly more than 33,000 acres this year, but poor growing conditions early in the season and a late spring frost resulted in some of this acreage having to be reseeded. He believes that hail damage and acreage abandonment will probably result in a harvested acreage of about 32,000 acres.

World sugar production in 1983 is forecast to drop below last year's level and very early estimates favor a production level of about 95 million tonnes. World sugar consumption is also expected to rise and could equal this year's production level.

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Sugar Situation And Outlook (cont'd)

Mr. Boyce reports that nearly all areas of the world anticipate a further growth in sugar usage except Western Europe, where consumption is expected to remain the same, and North America, where usage is expected to decline as a result of the use of artificial sweeteners and the increased use of high fructose corn syrup. He predicts that the large surplus of sugar on the world market will continue to weigh heavily on producer prices throughout the remainder of the year. And he points out that price rallies will depend upon weather problems in the main sugar producing areas of the world as well as on a continued improvement in the world sugar trade and consumption. "A set back in the recovery of the world economy would halt any improvement in sugar prices", he says.

The above article is based on information that was available in July 1983.

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August 22, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEED TREATMENT FOR FALL RYE

Agriculture Canada research results have shown that farmers can get far better yields from their fall rye if they treat the seed with a fungicide.

And Alberta Agriculture's plant pathologist, Dr. I.R. Evans, reports that research in Western Canada has shown that treating fall rye with a fungicide at a cost of around a dollar an acre can increase yields by as much as four or five bushels per acre. He says that fall rye is susceptible to a number of fungal diseases, the more serious of which are seed decay, seedling blight and stem smut. However, they can all be greatly reduced or eliminated by treating fall rye seed with a suitable fungicide.

Cougar, a popular fall rye variety, is one of many that are suitable for growing in Alberta. However, since it is highly susceptible to stem smut, a farmer who has had a problem with this disease should either treat his seed with Vitavax, which will control the smut, seed decay and seedling blight, or he should grow a stem smut-resistant variety, such as Kodiak, and use a fungicide that will control seed decay and seedling blight.

Despite the fact that fungal diseases cause poor rye stands, which naturally result in reduced grain yields, and despite the fact that seed treatment is recommended for fall rye, less than 25 per cent of the fall rye grown in Alberta is treated with a fungicide. "This situation is unfortunate", says Dr. Evans, "when conclusive evidence has shown that a dollar invested in seed treatment will return an average of $8 to $10 in increased yields per acre.

All the fungicide seed treatment products that are recommended for fall rye are listed in a publication entitled "Seed Treatment of Cereal and Oilseed Crops" (Agdex 100/632), which can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture's district offices.

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August 22, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOURCES OF FARM BUSINESS CREDIT IN ALBERTA

If you are in the market for farm credit, you will be interested in Alberta Agriculture's updated publication entitled "Sources of Farm Business Credit in Alberta".

It outlines the credit options that are available to farmers in this province, including the farm loan programs that are available through chartered banks, treasury branches, credit unions, the federal Farm Credit Corporation and the provincial Agricultural Development Corporation. It also gives advice on where to seek financing for credit needs that are not covered by the more traditional agricultural lenders.

The first part of the publication outlines some of the rules for the sound use of credit and points out things that should be considered when dealing with creditors.

The next part contains a summary, in the form of a chart, of long-term financing that is available to farmers at banks, credit unions, treasury branches and government agencies. Of particular interest to many farmers will be the availability of fixed interest rates, the terms of fixed interest rates and the prepayment of allowances and penalties at the various financial institutions.

Doug Barlund of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch outlines below two of the more important changes that have taken place in the credit field since the 1982 edition of "Sources of Farm Business Credit in Alberta" was published last October.

The Farm Credit Corporation (FCC) has raised its maximum loan to a single farm business to $350,000 from $300,000 when there is one qualifying applicant. And it has raised its maximum loan to a single farm business to $600,000 from $500,000 when there is more than one qualifying applicant. Although FCC interest rates are now reviewed every month, the rate for a single farm business loan is set for a 10-year renewable period, and these

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Sources Of Farm Business Credit In Alberta (cont'd)

loans are subject to a payout penalty that cannot exceed three months' interest.

The Federal Business Development Bank (FBDB) decreased its minimum fixed interest rate in July of this year for a one-year term mortgage to 12.75 per cent. Other fixed term mortgage rates that became effective in July are: a two to three-year fixed term at 13.75 per cent; a four-year fixed term at 14.25 per cent; and a five-year fixed term at 14.5 per cent. The FBDB also has a minimum floating interest rate of 12.25 per cent, which came into effect in July.

The above rates are all subject to change on the 23rd of each month.

Copies of "Sources of Farm Business Credit in Alberta" (Agdex 832) can be obtained from district agriculturists, the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO or by writing to the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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August 22, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHITE LEAF SPOT IN ALFALFA

Staff at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks received a number of calls earlier this summer from farmers who were concerned about the sudden appearance of white to tan-colored spots on the leaves of their alfalfa crops.

The plant pathologist at the center, Dr. Ronald Howard, says this condition is called white leaf spot, and that the spots will vary in size and in number with different alfalfa cultivars. They may or may not be surrounded by a dark brown margin. Dr. Howard also says that when the disease is severe, it will cause the leaves to wilt and to die prematurely, and that plants that are infected with white leaf spot often have fusarium crown rot. However, the two diseases can also occur separately.

Dr. Howard reports that the cause of white leaf spot is believed to be a fluctuation in the soil moisture level, which stresses the plants. In fact, the disease is often most severe when a heavy irrigation or a heavy rain follows a period of drought. According to Dr. Howard, the part that the interaction of soil nutrients and moisture plays in the occurrence of white leaf spot in alfalfa is still not well understood. In the meantime he believes the best way to offset the adverse effects of this disease on the yield and quality of alfalfa is probably to maintain an adequate soil moisture level and a vigorous forage stand.

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August 22, 1983

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HEAD OF HERBICIDES SECTION APPOINTED

The head of plant sciences at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, Dr. Bart Bolwyn, has announced the promotion, through an open competition, of Dr. Paul Sharma to the position of head of the herbicides section in the weed science group.

In his new position, Dr. Sharma will conduct applied research on the physiology of herbicide action in plants, and he will be responsible for the centre's chemical damage diagnostic service and extension/advisory service in weed control and herbicides.

Dr. Sharma obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) and his M.Sc. (agronomy) in India and his masters and Ph.D. degrees in plant science from the University of Alberta, where he specialized in weed science.

His 17 years of research experience cover various aspects of weed science. At the University of Alberta he was involved in studies on the mode of action of herbicides and weed control in cereal and oil seed crops, with special emphasis on the biology and the control of wild oats and Canada thistle. He was also involved in studies on the interaction between herbicides and fertilizers and on the responses of crop and weed species to herbicides that were applied under a variety of environmental conditions. Part of the research work was carried out jointly with scientists at Agriculture Canada's research station in Lacombe.

Before joining the environmental centre in 1981, Dr. Sharma was employed at Agriculture Canada's research station in Lethbridge where he did research and extension work related to weed control in special crops. Since joining the environmental centre, he has been involved in research related to the biology and the control of economically important weeds in Alberta, and he has participated in the centre's diagnostic and extension services.

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Head Of Herbicides Section Appointed (cont'd)

Dr. Sharma has 30 publications to his credit which include research and extension papers. He is senior author of a literature review of wild oats, which was published in "The Biology of Canadian Weeds", and of two research reports published by the University of Alberta. They are entitled "Wild Oat Herbicide Mixtures: Synergism and Antagonism" and "Wild Oats Herbicides – Fertilizer Interactions".

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REGIONAL HOME ECONOMIST RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

Alberta Agriculture's regional home economist at Two Hills, Edith Zawadiuk, is the first woman from Alberta to be awarded an honorary life membership in the Canadian Society of Extension (CSE).

*National Extension Award Winner, Edith Zawadiuk.**

Throughout her extension career, Ms. Zawadiuk has shown outstanding leadership qualities and has inspired the organization of numerous tours, conferences, 4-H clubs, etc. She has also initiated programs in cooperation with both local and regional agricultural service boards, and she has trained several district agriculturists and district home economists in the finer aspects of extension work.

Over the years she has also shown a great deal of foresight in determining the needs of rural Albertans. Under her guidance, the district home economists in the northeastern region of the province developed and tested recipes for canola oil and frozen eggs before Alberta Agriculture began focussing on marketing these. And she initiated home economics TV programs when the Lloydminster TV station opened in the late 1950's. In addition to hosting the show, she often found herself acting as cameraman as well. She was also instrumental in the formation of the Lakeland Home Economics Association.

Ms. Zawadiuk is well known for her work with a variety of ethnic groups. In 1976 she was made an honorary princess by the Saddle Lake Indian band in appreciation for all the work she had done for them.

**Photo courtesy: Ernie's Photo Studio, Vegreville, 6* *-2525.*

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Regional Home Economist Receives National Award (cont'd)

She joined Alberta Agriculture as an extension home economist in St. Paul in 1957. At that time she was responsible for five counties in northeastern Alberta. Nine years later she was seconded to a rural development program (ARDA) as program coordinator.

In 1972 Ms. Zawadiuk was appointed district home economist at Two Hills. In addition to her regular duties, she was program assistant for 12 district home economists that were located throughout northeastern Alberta. And in 1975 she was appointed regional home economist for the Vermilion region.

Ms. Zawadiuk's commitment to her profession can be clearly seen by the number and variety of professional organizations to which she belongs. She has made extension work her life, and because of this, and her many other accomplishments, she is a very fitting recipient for the CSE's prestigious national award.

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August 29, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS FOR CATTLEMEN

Feed samples in Saskatchewan have shown that the copper content of many Prairie feeds is low to marginal for cattle.

This was the subject of a paper presented at the Western Section Meeting of the Canadian Society of Animal Science by Dr. D.A. Christensen of the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, and the paper is one of four that have been summarized below by Ross Gould of Alberta Agriculture.

In his paper, entitled "Copper Deficiency in Prairie Feeds", Dr. Christensen said that the low to marginal copper content of many Prairie feeds showed up in feed sample surveys, and that the problem may be further compounded by drinking water that contains 1200 to 2400 ppm of sulphate. This is because sulphate interferes with an animal's ability to make use of the copper that is in the feed.

Dr. Christensen also reported that studies carried out at the University of Saskatchewan have shown that some growing cattle in that province exhibit a low to marginal copper status (the same situation can be expected to exist in parts of Alberta). However, when supplemental copper, sulphate or both were added to a standard ration in a feedlot trial, the copper did not improve gains. The sulphate actually reduced gains in both Hereford and Holstein steers after the animals had been on trial for 56 days. And while the added sulphate reduced the feed efficiency of the Hereford steers, copper fed in combination with sulphate restored it to the same level as that of a standard ration.

"Preserving High Moisture Alfalfa and Brome Grass Hay with Anhydrous Ammonia"

In his paper on preserving high moisture alfalfa and brome grass hay with anhydrous ammonia, Dr. J.A. Robertson of Agriculture Canada's research station in Melfort, Sas-

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Research Highlights For Cattlemen (cont'd)

[illegible] at the 2 per cent level prevented heating and the development of mold in both alfalfa and brome grass hay that had been baled with a moisture content of less than 35 per cent. Untreated bales that had been baled at the same moisture level exceeded an internal heat of 30° C for two to three weeks after baling, and they developed an extensive amount of mold.

Dr. Robertson also said that the crude protein content of the treated hay increased by 7 to 9 per cent, and that treatment increased the digestibility of the organic matter, protein, energy and fibre.

Sheep apparently ate more of the ammonia-treated hay than they ate of either high moisture or dry baled hay that had not been treated.

"Pasture Improvement in Aspen Parkland"

In his paper on pasture improvement in aspen parkland, Duane McCartney, also of the Melfort research station, reported that a long-term pasture rejuvenation study showed that rough pasture land that was rebroken, seeded and fertilized in alternative years with 80 pounds of nitrogen and 40 pounds of phosphorus produced 2,320 pounds of dry matter in the year in which it was fertilized, while similar pastures in the area that had not been fertilized produced only 1,033 pounds of dry matter. He also said that there was a carryover effect in the years when the pasture received no fertilizer, which produced 23 per cent more dry matter compared with yields from unfertilized pastures. This increase in production from the use of a fertilizer resulted in a longer grazing season, lower winter feed costs, an increase in calf gains per acre and a significant reduction in the number of acres required per cow. In 1982 a cow-calf unit grazing on pasture that had been rebroken, seeded and fertilized required only 3.2 acres compared with 3.7 acres for pasture that had been only fertilized and 5.4 acres for pasture that had been left in its natural state.

Research Highlights For Cattlemen (cont'd)

According to Dr. Robertson, untreated pastures in the area where the study was conducted have produced 52 pounds of calf gain per acre since 1978, while pastures that were fertilized produced 77 pounds of calf gain per acre and pastures that were rebroken, seeded and fertilized produced 80 pounds of calf gain per acre. The pastures that were fertilized every other year produced about 25 more pounds of calf gain per year for an average cost of 40 pounds of nitrogen and 20 pounds phosphorus per year.

"Heat Damage in Large Round Bales"

In his paper on heat damage in large round bales, Dr. J.A. Shelford of the University of British Columbia said that a study conducted by the University of British Columbia and the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food showed that large round bales that had been baled with a moisture content of from 30 to 35 per cent generated internal temperatures of 72 ° to 75 °C. Those that were baled with a moisture content of 20 to 21 per cent, generated internal temperatures that ranged from 58 ° to 78 ° C, while bales that were baled with a moisture content of 13 per cent generated internal temperatures of 45° to 46 °C.

Dr. Shelford said a more important finding was the fact that heating reduced the dry matter digestibility of the hay from 57 per cent to 44 per cent in the better quality hay and from 53 to 50 per cent in the poor quality hay. And most important of all, the heating caused a major decrease in the amount of protein that could be digested. Only 9.2 to 11.5 per cent of the protein in hay that had been baled when dry was indigestible, while from 30 to 37 per cent of the protein had been damaged by heat to the point where it was indigestible in those bales that had been baled with a moisture content of from 30 to 35 per cent.

More detailed information on any of the above papers can be obtained by writing to the authors. However, copies of the original abstracts that were published for the Canadian Society of Animal Science meeting can be obtained from Ross Gould, Beef Cattle and Sheep Branch, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 (Telephone: 427-5335).

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August 29, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCLEROTINIA STEM ROT IN CANOLA CROPS

Sclerotinia stem rot, which occurs in all the canola growing areas of Alberta, has been most severe in recent years in the north-central region and particularly in the western part of this region.

Dr. Ron Howard, plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, reports that yield losses of from 15 to 40 per cent can occur in a severely infected crop, and that higher losses than these have been recorded. Heavy and lodged crops apparently suffer the highest yield losses.

Wet weather and warm temperatures during the flowering period favor the development of sclerotinia, the main symptom of which is the development of pale grey stem lesions at or above ground level or on the upper branches and pods. "These symptoms usually occur," says Dr. Howard, ' after flowering commences and are more common following a period of wet weather."

He points out that canola plants with stem lesions ripen prematurely and that they usually stand out among the other green, healthy plants. The stems of diseased plants appear to have been bleached and will tend to shred. They and the branches and pods contain hard, black sclerotia or sclerotes.

The sclerotia overwinter in the soil, and, under damp, moist conditions, they may produce small, golf-tee shaped reproductive structures called apothecia from late June onwards. The apothecia, in turn, produce ascospores that can be dispersed for several kilometres by the wind.

The sclerotia can also produce a white cottony mold that may infect plants near or at ground level. New sclerotia may develop in the infected plant stems and branches and occasionally in the pods. When the crop is harvested some will contaminate the seed, while others will fall to the ground and infest the soil.

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Sclerotinia Stem Rot In Canola Crops (cont'd)

According to Dr. Howard, sclerotinia is a very difficult disease to control because it can infect more than 360 plant species including many crops and broadleaved weed species. And it can persist in the soil for many years without host plants. Dr. Howard recommends allowing at least four years between growing sclerotinia-susceptible crops like canola, field peas, beans, lentils and clovers on the same land. He also says that it is very important to control the growth of volunteer canola and broadleaved weeds between the rotations. Since cereal crops and grasses are immune to sclerotinia, they can be used in the rotation. Dr. Howard stresses that a canola crop should never be grown in a field that is adjacent to one that had a badly infected crop the previous year. And sclerotia-contaminated seed should never be planted. According to Dr. Howard, only a spiral cleaner will remove the sclerotia from canola seed.

He also says that significant yield increases have been obtained from sclerotinia-infected Argentine-type canola that was sprayed with the systemic fungicide Benlate when the crop was in the 20 to 30 per cent bloom stage.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IS STRAW A GOOD HEATING FUEL?

by Edwin Thornton
Energy Systems Engineer
Alberta Agriculture

Now that harvest time is upon us, some farmers are wondering whether to bale some of their straw for use as a heating fuel. Anyone who thinks straw will provide free fuel may indeed be clutching at straws!

Straw has a similar heating value to that of other cellulosic materials like wood and peat from — 5-7000 BTU/lb. However, this value varies with the type of straw and its moisture content. At a moisture content of 50 per cent, all the heat from the straw would be used up drying itself out so that it could burn. A moisture content of above 50 per cent would require three boy scouts per ton of straw to get it lit and to keep it burning!

Contrary to popular opinion, straw is not free. It costs money (40¢ /bale) to bale and haul it in from the field, and that does not include the cost of the baler. The type of bale — small rectangular or large round — will determine the handling requirements and the type of furnace needed.

Any solid fuel furnace will burn straw. The problem is that straw is very bulky and a lot of straw is needed to produce a lot of heat. This means that somebody must stand by the furnace and feed in the straw or it means trying to buy a furnace that has been designed for burning straw (i.e. it has an automatic stoking system).

Furnaces that have been specifically designed for burning straw are mostly European and cost $5,000 and upwards. This high cost makes the use of a straw-burning furnace questionable, especially if natural gas is available.

Home-made straw-burning furnaces could be the answer to a shop-heating problem. However, it is almost certain that insurance premiums would go up with the use of any type of straw-burning furnace.

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And one of the main disadvantages of using straw as a fuel may be the depletion of the organic matter in the soil. Farmers who have a trash problem may not see it this way, but most soils can benefit from the incorporation of straw.

In summary then, anyone who decides to use straw as a fuel, and who buys a straw-burning furnace, can expect to spend a long time bringing in the straw and fueling up the furnace. He can also expect his maintenance costs and fire insurance premium to go up.

And if barley straw is used, the cost of the heat energy will be the same as that for natural gas ($4/MBTU). Because wheat straw has a higher heat value, it would probably cost about $3/MBTU.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ECONOMICS OF OVERWINTERING VERSUS PACKAGE BEE OPERATIONS

There is a definite monetary advantage in favor of overwintering bee operations compared with package bee operations, according to a study carried out by Alberta Agriculture in 1982.

Based on a consensus of cost and return data provided by apiarists who were familiar with both types of operation, and on the assumption that the amount of honey produced was the same in both cases, the study showed a positive return on investment of $3.01 per hive for the overwintering group. This situation was in sharp contrast to the package bee group which showed a negative return on investment of $6.79 per hive. Total production costs for the overwintering group were $131.66 per hive compared with $140.41 for the package bee group. Expressed on a per pound of honey sold basis, the cost for the overwintering group was 82¢ compared with 88¢ for the package bee group.

The difference in costs between the two groups was mainly due to the price of the package bees, as opposed to overwintering costs; the amount of sugar used; and the cost of labor.

In the 1982 study an average honey yield of 160 pounds per hive and an average wax yield of 1.6 pounds per hive, for a total value of $102.80, were assumed for both types of operation. However, in actual fact, overwintered hives have shown a significant yield advantage in some years over package bee operations. For example, a 1980 study based on actual production, showed a difference of more than 57 pounds per hive in favor of the overwintered hives.

The 1982 study also contains a breakdown of costs for the two types of operation. It shows the cost of queens for the overwintering group averaged $1.08 per hive or 1.5 per cent of their cash costs, while the cost of bees at $25.83 per hive for the package bee operations represented 29.9 per cent of this group's cash costs.

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The Economics of Overwintering Verus Package Bee Operations (cont'd)

Feed, labor and depreciation costs were all higher for the overwintering operations compared with the package bee operations. The difference between the two were $10.20 per hive for feed, $2.50 per hive for labor and $3.33 per hive for depreciation. However, the interest on operating capital was $7.13 per hive for the package bee group compared with only $6.04 per hive for the overwintering group due to the higher cash costs of the former.

The above information comes from a publication entitled "An Economic Comparison of Wintering and Package Bees in the Peace River Region" (Agdex 821-14). It can be obtained from district agriculturists or by writing to the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POWDERY MILDEW ON STRAWBERRIES

"Why are the leaves on my strawberry plants curling up and dying?" is a question that the staff at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks has been frequently asked in recent weeks.

"The chances are", says the center's plant pathologist, Dr. Ron Howard, "the plants are suffering from an infectious fungal disease called powdery mildew". He explains that the fungus that causes this disease overwinters in infected plant debris, and that it produces spores which are spread by air currents and splashing water.

The symptoms of powdery mildew first appear shortly before the plants bear fruit. The infected leaves begin to turn purple and curl upwards, and their undersides may be coated with a dusty, greyish-white fungal growth. These symptoms will be accentuated during warm, dry weather, and a serious infection can reduce both the yield and the quality of the fruit.

Dr. Howard recommends the following measures for controlling powdery mildew on strawberries.

- Collect and destroy all debris from diseased plants.
- Spray the plants in the spring when their new leaves are fully developed with a protective fungicide such as Benlate, Benlate + Captan or a wettable sulphur product, and repeat this treatment at 10 to 14-day intervals if necessary. The wait period before harvesting the strawberries is one day for Benlate and sulphur and seven days for Benlate + Captan. Lime Sulphur can also be used to control strawberry mildew but it should only be applied three weeks after the berries have been harvested and again in the spring when growth starts.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ECONOMICS OF HOME FOOD PRESERVATION

Home food preservation has been with us for centuries, but it seems that it is becoming more and more difficult to justify this practice from an economic point of view.

Reasons for preserving foods at home include a better flavored product, convenience, year-round variety, personal satisfaction and economics. However, according to Alberta Agriculture's food and nutrition specialist at Airdrie, Suzanne Tenold, it is very doubtful whether economics should be included in the reasons for preserving foods.

She says the home preservation of food products is a very commendable practice, and that it certainly has an important place in our traditions, heritage and personal satisfaction. However, she points out that it is becoming increasingly difficult to show a "profit" from such a pursuit. She also points out that the home preservation of food can be very satisfying and enjoyable, but that the subjective values we assign to our efforts can cover up the harsh economic fact that it does not usually pay.

She recommends that anybody who is planning to do home preserving for the economic advantages ask herself the following questions.

- Do I compare the cost with the same commercial products?
- Do I take into account the time I spend?
- Do I calculate my time on an hourly wage basis?
- Do I consider the transportation, gardening, and material costs that are necessary for my efforts?
- Do I put a dollar value on the products I make?
- Do I consider the money lost in products that must be discarded because of spoilage?

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NEW 4-H WARDROBE

Fashion Facets — Fall '83 features a collection of fall fashions which the Simplicity/Style Pattern Company of Toronto has made available to Alberta's 4-H clothing clubs.

The wardrobe consists of 20 fall and winter fashions in the latest fabrics and colors with complimentary jewelery for each outfit. The wardrobe is intended to supplement the 4-H clothing project series.

The clothes may be modelled by clothing club members in local fashion shows or they may be used as a reference for fabrics and construction techniques mentioned in the project manuals.

An example of fall '83's fashion collection.

"Being in 4-H is fun," says Alberta Agriculture's 4-H home economics specialist, Sandy Wallick, as clothing members will see when they present their own exciting fashion shows this fall.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGIONAL 4-H SPECIALIST APPOINTED FOR NORTHWESTERN ALBERTA

The head of Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch, Ted Youck, has announced that Rod MacMillan is the new regional 4-H specialist for the northwestern region of the province.

Mr. MacMillan was born in Vermilion and grew up on the family farm in the Clandonald district. He attended school in both Clandonald and Vermilion and was a member of the Clandonald 4-H beef club from 1968 to 1976.

Upon graduation from high school, he attended the University of Alberta and graduated in 1980 with a B.Sc. (agriculture). While at university, he played an active role in running the family farm.

During the past few years Mr. MacMillan has worked as a surface land agent and as a loans officer as well as spending time travelling abroad.

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